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OUR LAVENDER

- 8 From the Editor
- 10 A Word in Edgewise
- 12 Lavender Website: Our Community - Online
- 26 Lens: Big Gay Race, Quatrefoil Library
- 28 Lens: First Thursday, Fertile Ashes

OUR SCENE

- 14 2011 Feb 50 Awards
- 30 Locally Sourced: Sustainable Seafood?
- 32 Restaurant: Wilde Roast Cafe
- 36 Bar: Bartender
- 38 Bar: Showcase
- 39 Sugar & Spice
- 40 Arts: Spotlight
- 44 Books: Interview with Alan Hollinghurst
- 48 Travel: Chapel Hill

OUR AFFAIRS

- 52 Big Gay News
- 53 Glimpses
- 54 Interview: Randy Roberts Potts

OUR HOMES

- 55 Gardening: Jack Frost
- 56 Baking: Nordic Ware

OUR RESOURCES

- 59 The Network
- 62 Community Connection
- 65 Classifieds

OUR VOICES

- 57 Ms. Behavior®
- 57 Cartoon: Trolín
- 58 Wanda Wisdom
- 61 Dateland
- 64 Skirting the Issues
- 66 Through These Eyes

ON THE COVER

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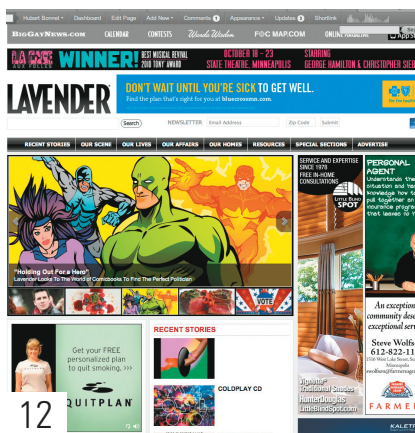


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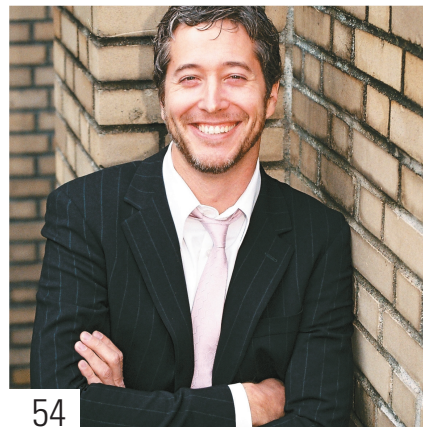


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FROM THE EDITOR | Andy Lien

FAB. I'M feeling fab today. It's Friday. We're sending the second half of the Fab 50 issue to press. The weekend is next. And I've got so much to tell you.

I realize that I'm running the risk of overusing a tired metaphor in this community when I make this next statement, but I'm going to do it anyway: Running a magazine is a lot like The Wizard of Oz. There are yellow brick roads leading to this place and that. Sometimes, there's singing, even a little dancing. People of all ilk and ages and interests are cheering and waving while conducting their business and going about their daily lives. There might be a few flying monkeys—maybe even some nefarious characters, but I'm not going to take the metaphor into too dark an area. We have quests and challenges and guards to convince to let us through the big doors. We've got Kings of the Forest and people with heart and brains and courage. The horse has changed its color every time you turn around. Smoke and mirrors would be easy to employ as a means to distract and divert, but I'm just not interested. Here is where we start to depart from the comparison a bit. I'm not interested in a curtain to hide behind, either. This community has historically had its fill of run-around and double-speak. We're analytical and tend to default toward the skeptical. It makes sense. It's been a requirement for survival. As we venture outward and upward, out of closets...and out from behind curtains...we get stronger as a community. Issue 429, though thin, is huge. In its pages is content that is bona fide. It's backed by stats. It's truthful and honest and representative of you. And, it represents you more the more you participate.

The 2011 Fab 50 contest was tightened up this year to include Fabulicious Finalists that were determined based on previous Fab 50 winners, the results of other publications' award programs, and new industry knowledge. Not everyone could be a Finalist, so write-ins were encouraged. Using an online survey platform, voting was easier and the results were crystal clear and beyond reproach. See? There's no big green projected head telling you what you should hear or think or know—while scaring your terrier and sending your Cowardly Lion running with a booming voice and flamethrower. They are your results as determined by you. And, if you don't agree, perhaps you should cast your votes next year. We hope you do.

Many congratulations to the winners. Our community thinks you're fabulous.

Also, this issue has in it one partial page that is the key to Emerald City. It's ridiculously understated for its significance. It is the introduction to Lavender's new website. Go to www.lavendermagazine.com and

turn the key. What you'll see is the framework that is ready for you and what you want to know about. Being a publication that has always been free to its community, our page numbers have gone up and down with advertising dollars. We get to give you more content when we have more advertisers in our pages. Advertisers get more readers when we get to present more content. This relationship works best when we understand that we have to deliver great content at the same time as the advertisers understand that they need our readers to see their businesses. This economy isn't making this relationship very easy, either. So, in order to make sure that our audience gets what it deserves (breadth and depth in content), we developed our new website. The website will be the primary vehicle for both the content and the advertisers as we evolve into embracing new media and everything it can offer us. And, the bi-weekly glossy magazine will become more of a cherrypicked showcase of what is the best our community has to offer to itself every two weeks.

What will happen is that we'll have this gorgeous collection of content. My role as an editor will turn into more of the role of a curator—finding talent and content and figuring out when and where to display it; accepting submissions and assigning commissions; looking to the future and keeping my eyes and ears open to what the community wants.

Here's the key. Walk in, take a look around, see what you think, and let us know.

Without the smoke and mirrors, you'll see that all of this is still a piece of work that's under development. It's evolving. It's got its flaws and we'll fix them as we find them. There are articles on that site that are years old that have yet to be categorized, but we'll get to them. They're both time capsules of policies past as well as being articles that are still relevant and worth revisiting. There is so much—and I am incredibly fortunate to have inherited what I have. Fortunate and tired. Believe me, taking over the role of editor of a biweekly magazine at the same time as developing a website is not the sanest career move—more than once did I want to find a hot air balloon and fly back to Omaha and out of Oz. But, if Lavender agrees to pay for rebonding my new grey hairs for a while, we'll call it good. And, we'll keep plugging away at making our community more interactive in all its differences and similarities.

Hopefully, we'll find that staying in Oz and going Home aren't mutually exclusive options any longer.

With thanks,

Andy □



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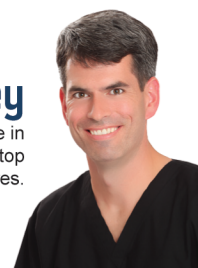
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TOURING THE Minnesota Historical Society's Treasures of the Vatican exhibit in 2008, it didn't occur to me that the power behind that guilt and guilt would be marshaled against my having the right to marry a partner of my choice.

Perhaps not the entire Vatican, and certainly not just me, but that Rome, through the agency of its local representative, Archbishop John Nienstedt, would make the amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Minnesota its prime issue for the 2012 election.

So determined is the Archbishop to deny marriage to Minnesotans he deems unworthy, that he and other bishops are urging parish priests statewide to form committees to help get the proposed marriage amendment passed in 2012.

Nienstadt wrote to priests on October 4 stating, "It is imperative that we marshal our resources to educate the faithful about the church's teachings on these matters, and to vigorously organize and support a grass-roots effort to get out the vote to support the passage of this amendment."

This means, to state the rhetoric plainly, that my gay Catholic friends, some of whom are in committed relationships, are being told

by their church to vote not only against their own best interests, but against the best interests of their gay friends, Catholic or not, who are in relationships or already married in other states allowing same-sex marriage, or through GLBT-friendly ministers here in Minnesota.

It means that straight Catholics are being told by their clergy to vote for Minnesota to deny basic human rights to their gay family and friends.

Back in 2008, the Mormons rallied enough out-of-state funding to pass Prop 8, ending same sex marriage in California, leaving some 19,000 gay couples who legally wed during one small window of time in marital limbo.

A tirade here about the interference of religion into state affairs is pointless. The lesson to draw from Nienstedt's ominous directives, and the empirical evidence from California, is that it is imperative that all Minnesotans—GLBTs, straight allies, and citizens who want equal rights for every individual—put funds and muscle into making Minnesota the first state to defeat a repressive, anti-gay amendment.

Cash is important, but come 2012, one's presence in the voting booth will make the difference. One way—or the other. □

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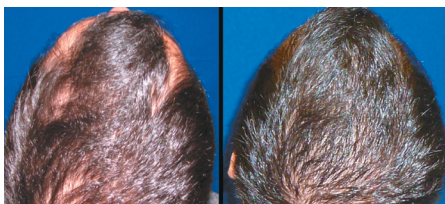
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Lavender's New Website: Our Community – Online, Part 1

LAVENDER DEVELOPED a new website with multiple goals at the fore, the most important of which are 1.) organization, 2.) accessibility, and 3.) space. Really, space is what dictated the entire project as now that we've got more space than ever, it means that we can have more content—which needs to be organized and accessible.

But, we've always had a lot of content. It's both revolutionary and business-as-usual. Now, we're organizing it for you better with a format that requires some eye-training. Once you start familiarizing yourself with the website, your eyes will know where to look and expect to find things. It'll become more comfortable and, eventually, even easy.

Let me draw your eyes up to the top of the site as that grey bar is where you'll find a great deal of organization and accessibility for the clicking. There are links to our very popular Big Gay News and Wanda Wisdom sites which will be integrated into LavenderMagazine.com soon.

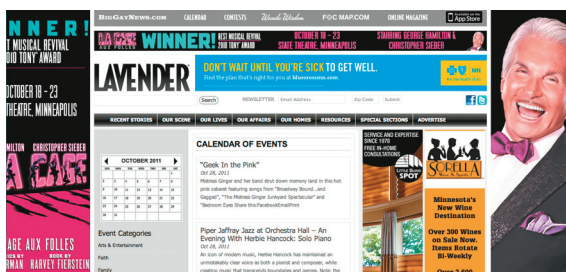
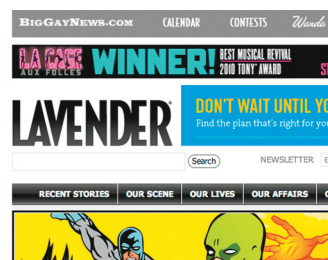
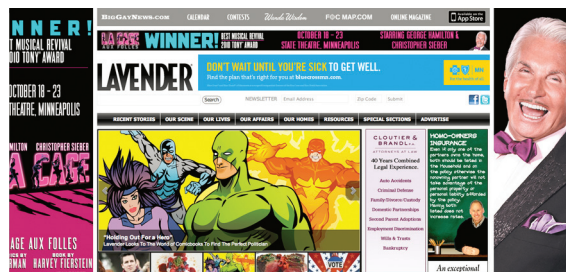
But, more noteworthy, that's where you'll find links to our Contests, our Online Magazine, and our Calendar.

Ah, the Calendar. Yes. We've opened up accessibility for you to post your own Calendar items. We want this to be the resource for the *Lavender* community. Once you click on Calendar, you get a listing of everything that's happening. You can sort by event type or by date if you click in the sidebar on either the categories or the miniature calendar. Once you click the miniature calendar, you'll get to a page where you can choose a date and see what's scheduled. Again, back to having space, organizing it, and making it accessible.

On the issue of accessibility, it's your Calendar. By being your Calendar, it's our Calendar. Upload your events! For free! With a photo, even! It's yours. And, the more you add, the more it will become a resource for your community. Our community.

See the Submit button beneath the categories and miniature calendar? That's where you can do it. Each event needs to be approved after they're submitted, but they'll show up shortly. Then, we all know what's going on.

Next Issue: Articles and Submission Guidelines ▣



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It's time for Lavender's Annual Fab 50 Awards! This year, each category had multiple FABULICIOUS FINALISTS to choose from and opportunities for write-in winners as well. We want to thank everyone for voting—we had the highest response rate in the history of the Fab 50! While we love all our FABULICIOUS FINALISTS, we're happy to list the First, Second, and Third Place Winners in each category. We love 'em, you love 'em. These winners are BONA FIDE FAB.

CONGRATULATIONS!

1 Fundraiser

1. DINING OUT FOR LIFE-THE ALIVENESS PROJECT
"Dine out, fight AIDS" is the motto, and The Aliveness Project's sponsored event draws thousands to this fun-filled, gustatory celebration. 2011 has raised, to date, \$198,760. www.aliveness.org

- 2. Walks For Animals — Animal Humane
- 3. Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure

2 College/University/ Tech School

1. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES
Top-notch academics combine with arts and culture; a world-class art museum, dance, theater, and music, and a floating theater on the Mississippi River in St. Paul. www.umn.edu

- 2. Minneapolis Community & Technical College
- 3. Macalaster College

3 Nonprofit

1. ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY
Acts on their beliefs: animals have intrinsic value; a unique and reciprocal bond between animals and humans; animals are worthy of time, money and attention. www.animalhumane.org

- 2. Second Harvest Heartland
- 3. The Aliveness Projects

4 Politician

1. AMY KLOBUCHAR
Senator Amy Klobuchar supports civil rights for all the nation's citizens, gay and straight, and has been mentioned as a potential presidential or U.S. Supreme Court candidate. <http://klobuchar.senate.gov/>

- 2. Al Franken
- 3. RT Ryback

5 Employer

1. TARGET
The company speaks to its "commitment to the GLBT community, to diversity, and to all of the communities we serve. At Target, diversity is a core value." www.target.com

- 2. General Mills
- 3. Wells Fargo and State of Minnesota (tie)



Amy Klobuchar and Family. Photo by Sophia Haulizes



University of Minnesota. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



Guthrie Photo by Hubert Bonnet

6 Performance Theatre

1. GUTHRIE

Recently termed "a 21st century dream factory" by Time Magazine, the new Guthrie is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training. Here at Lavender, we'll be happy to be cited as calling it "fabulous." www.guthrietheater.org

- 2. Hennepin Theatre Trust
- 3. Chanhassen Dinner

7 Art Gallery/Museum

1. MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

From its inception in 1883, the

MIA has continued to bring the arts into community life; a remarkable history of civic involvement and cultural achievement. www.artsmia.org

- 2. Walker Art Center
- 3. Science Museum of Minnesota

8 Movie Theater

1. SHOWPLACE ICON THEATRE

Modern design and delectable dining converge with state-of-the-art cinematic technology. Drink and dine before, after, or even during the movie in the VIP Premium Reserved section. www.showplaceicon.com

- 2. Riverview
- 3. Lagoon Uptown

9 Radio/TV Station/ Podcast Personality

1. MPR/THE CURRENT

Shakespeare's tragedy of the Middle Ages aptly complements its scenes of espionage and privacy invasion. Director Bain Boehlke surgically mines the ruthlessness of King Claudius and Queen Gertrude's shocking power grab.

- 2. Sven Sundgaard of KARE 11
- 3. Jason & Alexis of my Talk 107.1

10 Local Musician/Band

1. ERIN SCHWAB

Erin Schwab is a beloved Twin Cities vocalist who's a fabulous

solo chanteuse but has also has sung with The Girls, The Belcats, the Wolverines, Metro Jam, and Hot Swing Combo. www.erinschwab.com

- 2. Atmosphere
- 3. Dessa





11 Vintage Clothing

1. RAGSTOCK

From Mankato to MOA, Ragstock's locations have offered a wide array of used and new, unique and eclectic clothing, Halloween and Holiday items since 1971. www.ragstock.com

2. Goodwill
3. Tatters

12 Pro Sports Team

1. MINNESOTA LYNX

The Minnesota Lynx beat the Atlanta Dream to win the 2011 WNBA championship, with Seimone Augustus named MVP. Great game! Great team! Great role models! www.wnba.com/lynx/

2. Minnesota Twins
3. Minnesota Roller girls



Minnesota Lynx. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

13 Coffee Spot

1. WILDE ROAST CAFÉ

Check out its superb new location: patio, view of the Mississippi and ready to serve, morning, noon, evening, and après theatre. Bring a date or laptop. www.wilderoastcafe.com

2. Caribou
3. Dunn Bros.

2. Stone Arch Bridge/St. Anthony Main
3. Minneapolis Sculpture Garden — Walker Art Center

15 Burger

1. MATT'S BAR

All American, all 1950s, and "Home of the Original Jucy Lucy"—nuff said? When you've got a hankering brew and a burger, head for Matt's. www.mattsbar.com

2. The Nook
3. Blue Door Pub

14 Place to Take Visitors

1. MINNEHAHA FALLS

Spectacular view, and trails to hike from the Falls to the Mississippi, especially after a torrential rain or when the snow is feathering down. www.minneapolisparcs.org



Matt's Bar. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



16 State Fair Food on a Stick

1. PRONTO PUP

A favorite Fair fare, the Pronto Pup was introduced to hungry Minnesotans in 1947. How many cords of wood have been sacrificed for pup sticks? www.mnstatefair.org/find/food/

2. Corn Dog

3. Pork Chop on a stick

17 Happy Hour

1. LORING KITCHEN & BAR

What's not to like about 2-6 PM and 9PM to closing happy hours? Tap beers, rail martinis, steak & bleu salad, and much, much more. www.loringkitchen.com

2. Crave

3. Liquor Lyle's

18 State Fair Food (Not on a Stick)

1. CHEESE CURDS

112,000 pounds of them were consumed at this year's State Fair. Deep fried. Stickless. Most with a Pronto Pup and carbonated beverage. Don't count calories. www.mnstatefair.org/find/food/

2. Sweet Martha's Cookies

3. Roasted Corn

19 New Restaurant

1. WILDE ROAST CAFÉ

Bright as a risen phoenix, the new Wilde Roast boasts a river view and a bolder, bigger presence. Same fine foods and bev-



Loring Kitchen & Bar. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

erages, never fear. See Off the Eaten Path in this issue for more. www.wilderoastcafe.com

2. Wise Acre Eatery

3. Muddy Waters

20 Restaurant for Romance

1. W.A. FROST & COMPANY

St. Paul's WA Frost is "the Standard" when it comes to fine dining and romantic ambience,

whether outdoors on the patio or snug as a bug inside. www.wafrost.com.

2. La Belle Vie

3. Bar La Grassa



W.A. Frost. Photo Courtesy of W.A. Frost



Hell's Kitchen. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



24 **Cheaps Eats**

1. **CHIPOTLE**

"Food with integrity," or, "It's not just a burrito. It's a foil-wrapped, hand-crafted, local farm supporting food culture changing cylinder of deliciousness." And, it's cheap. www.chipotle.com

2. **Matt's Bar**

3. **Uptown Diner**

25 **Breakfast/Brunch Spot**

1. **HELL'S KITCHEN**

7:30AM-3PM fabulous weekend brunches in the deeply atmospheric depths of Downtown Minneapolis's Hell's Kitchen. Try the maple-glazed bison sausage and go from there. Run wild. www.hellskitcheninc.com

2. **Key's Café**

3. **French Meadow**

21 **Restaurant to People Watch**

1. **UPTOWN CAFETERIA**

High in the sky at Uptown Cafeteria, gaze down at the shoppers from the Sky Bar or check out your good company while sipping the hair of the dog at the Bloody Mary Bar. www.uptowncafeteria.com

2. **Wilde Roast Café**

3. **Loring Kitchen & Bar**

22 **Outdoor Dining**

1. **PSYCHO SUZI'S MOTOR LOUNGE**

A fantastic new location with a riverfront patio brings "even more weirdos out of the expertly-carved tiki woodwork." Since 2003, Psycho Suzi's has been bringing good times and better drinks to Northeast Minneapolis. www.psychosuzis.com

2. **W.A. Frost**

3. **Stella's Fish Café**

23 **Food Truck**

1. **SMACK SHACK**

Smack Shack's food truck is a rolling palace of dining delight. Monday-Friday from 11:00am-1:30pm on Marquette Avenue and every night at the 1029 Bar. To rendezvous, visit their Website, Facebook and Twitter daily. www.smack-shack.com

2. **Chef Shack**

3. **Barrio Taco Truck**



Psycho Suzi's. Photo by Chey Kumara.



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26 ✓ Healthy/Vegetarian

1. GOOD EARTH

There's a reason Good Earth is known for good food. They craft mindful meals out of oft-organic, sustainable local ingredients that feed the environment as well as the soul. www.goodearth.com

2. Birchwood Café

3. Common Roots Café

27 ✓ Bakery

1. FRENCH MEADOW

It's no surprise that the first certified organic bakery in the U.S. continues to achieve popular acclaim. French Meadow's thoughtful, loving approach to the art of baking can be tasted in every bite. www.frenchmeadow-cafe.com

2. Cupcake

3. Turtle Bread

28 ✓ Farmer's Market

1. MINNEAPOLIS—NORTH LYNDALÉ LOCATION

The flagship location of Minneapolis' famed farmer's market, tucked away at the edges of downtown, is an agricultural wonderland offering up a bounty seen nowhere else in the Upper Midwest. www.mplsfarmersmarket.com

2. St. Paul

3. Mill City and Nicollet Mall (tied)



Surdyk's. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



Hell's Kitchen. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

29 ✓ Ice Cream

1. SEBASTIAN JOE'S ORIINAL ICE CREAM

The sweet small-batch splendor of Sebastian Joe's homemade ice cream comforts late-night cravings and dazzles date night dessert stops. From simple scoops to sexy sundaes and just-baked goodies, there's no shortage of yummy, double-dipped fun to be had. www.sebastianjoesicecream.com

2. Izzy's Ice Cream

3. Grand Ole Creamery

30 ✓ Liquor/Wine Store

1. SURDYK'S

Ever since Prohibition finally petered out, Minneapolis has had a Surdyk's to whet our wine and spirits whistle. Beyond the basic Bordeaux and blended Scotch, Surdyk's boasts an international cheese selection that would make any wizened Cheesehound weepy. www.surdyks.com

2. Haskell's

3. Chicago Lake Liquors



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31 Grocery Store

1. TRADER JOE'S

Trader Joe's isn't just your neighborhood grocery store, it's your fun neighborhood grocery store, always full of surprises. Every time you tootle down the aisles you're bound to discover something new and delicious. www.traderjoes.com

2. Kowalski's Markets

3. Wedge Community Co-op

32 Music Venue

1. FIRST AVENUE

First Avenue and the 7th Street Entry are as Minneapolis iconic as the Spoonbridge and Cherry fountain sculpture and the Foshay Tower, only louder and with more rock and roll. www.first-avenue.com

2. Dakota Jazz Club

3. Hennepin Theatre Trust



TCGSL. Photo by Larry Barthel

33 Pizza

1. PIZZA LUCÉ

If pizza were music, Pizza Lucé would be punk rock... in your mouth. Innovative, expressive and totally tasty, Pizza Luce's menu puts most to shame with its mouth-watering menu of original eats. www.pizzaluce.com

2. Punch Neapolitan Pizza

3. Black Sheep Pizza

34 Social Organization

1. TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Countering the couch potato culture of our age, the Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League has successfully brought players and fans together out of doors for more than 30 years. www.tcgsi.org

2. Naked Minnesota

3. Minneapolis Movie Bears

35 Steak

1. MANNY'S STEAKHOUSE

If meat is love, then Manny's is the Match.com of steak houses. Their bevy of beautiful beefcake is poised to please your palate like few others can or will. www.mannyssteakhouse.com

2. Fogo de Chao Churrascaria

3. Murray's Restaurant



First Avenue. Photo by Dan Corrigan



36 Weekend Getaway

1. NORTH SHORE/DULUTH

Does this bus go to Duluth, Lena? No, Ole, it goes ding ding! That was a joke; this isn't: There isn't a more beautiful weekend getaway spot in the entire Upper Midwest than the scenic North Shore and the city of Duluth.

2. Chicago
3. Stillwater

37 Ethnic Restaurant

1. SAWATDEE

The secret to extraordinary Thai food is finding just the right balance of sweet, sour, bitter and salty. Or just ordering off the

Sawatdee menu at one of their eight Twin Cities locations. www.sawatdee.com

2. Fuji-Ya
3. It's Greek To Me

38 Tatto Artist/Parlor

1. SAINT SABRINA'S

I don't know who Saint Sabrina was or if she's really the patron saint of tattoos, but the award-winning artists at Saint Sabrina's in Uptown have been drinking the holy water from her inkwell since 1993. www.saintsabrinass.com

2. Uptown Tattoo
3. Tatus by Kore

39 Seafood/Sushi

1. FUJIYA

Sushi restaurants abound as local palates become more global, but Fuji Ya far outperforms the competition with its fun, vibrant atmosphere and quality, hand-crafted edible fish art. www.fujiyasushi.com

2. Oceanaire
3. Stella's

40 Men's Clothing

1. MACY'S

Men who want to keep abreast of the latest fashion-forward trends likely love the depth of designer duds the fine people at

Macy's offer at unbelievably reasonable prices throughout their many metro locations. www.macys.com

2. Len Druskin
3. H&M



Saint Sabrina's.
Photo Courtesy of Methane Design



Fuji Ya. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



Anthropologie. Photo by Andy Lien

41 Women's Clothing

1. ANTHROPOLOGIE

From simple to chic, the women's wear at Anthropologie has something to whet the appetite of every fashion-conscious female. Whatever the occasion, you're sure to find something spectacular to suit your own signature style. www.anthropologie.com

- 2. Nordstrom Rack
- 3. Macy's

42 Salon/Barber Shop

1. AVEDA

Aveda earns top marks from salon goers again and again by letting their customer's natural beauty shine through with sheer talent and simple, pure products. www.aveda.com

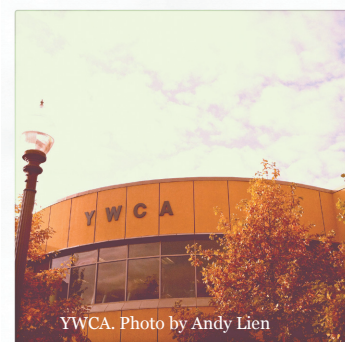
- 2. Barbers On Bryant
- 3. Aveda Institute

43 Fitness Center

1. YWCA

The YWCA continues to wow its members with multiple locations, reasonable prices and a legacy of community service. Perhaps the Village People should rewrite that one song? www.ywcampsl.org or www.ywcaofstpaul.org.

- 2. Lifetime Fitness
- 3. YMCA



YWCA. Photo by Andy Lien

44 Bike Shop

1. ERIK'S BIKE SHOP

If a passion for your product or service is the key to a successful business, it's no wonder Erik's Bike Shop was voted best of the best. Owner Erik's lifelong love of two-wheeled transport shows in the care and quality customers get. www.eriksbikeshop.com

- 2. Penn Cycle
- 3. The Hub

45 Place to Buy Home Furnishings

1. IKEA

Ridiculously cheap and stylish quality home furnishings continue to push IKEA to the top of the home goods heap. College kids and budget-savvy suburbanites alike amble the big box for daily decor deals and one mean Swedish meatball lunch. www.ikea.com

- 2. Room & Board
- 3. Crate & Barrel



46 **Floral & Garden**

1. TANGLETOWN GARDENS

Wander through their wondrous south Minneapolis garden center and you'll begin to appreciate why Tangletown Gardens is in a league of their own. From comprehensive landscape design to locally grown plants and produce, Tangletown towers over any other garden variety greenhouse. www.tangle-towngardens.com

2. Bachman's Floral Gift & Garden
3. Linder's

47 **Adult Gifts**

1. SMITTEN KITTEN

Big box retailers might be good for regular toys, but the adult variety requires a far more intimate shopping experience. Smitten Kitten has made a local and on-line name for itself by selling all kinds of safe, unique and super orgasmic fun for all frisky flavors. www.smittenkittenonline.com

2. Sex World
3. Rainbow Road

48 **Gayest Restaurant**

1. WILDE ROAST

Wilde Roast has always been a

gem in our secret Minneapolis gay garden and now with its great big, beautiful, brand new riverfront location, we can happily share the gayest cafe, restaurant, gelato shop, hangout spot with the rest of the world. www.wilderoastcafe.com

2. Gay 90's
3. Psycho Suzie's Motor Lounge

49 **Local Brew**

1. SURLY BREWING CO.

All beer is not local, but it should be, if Surly is any indication of what a local brewer can brew. From Furious to Hell, Surly brews battle the best hep hop hooch, winning taste accolades time and time again. www.surlybrewing.com

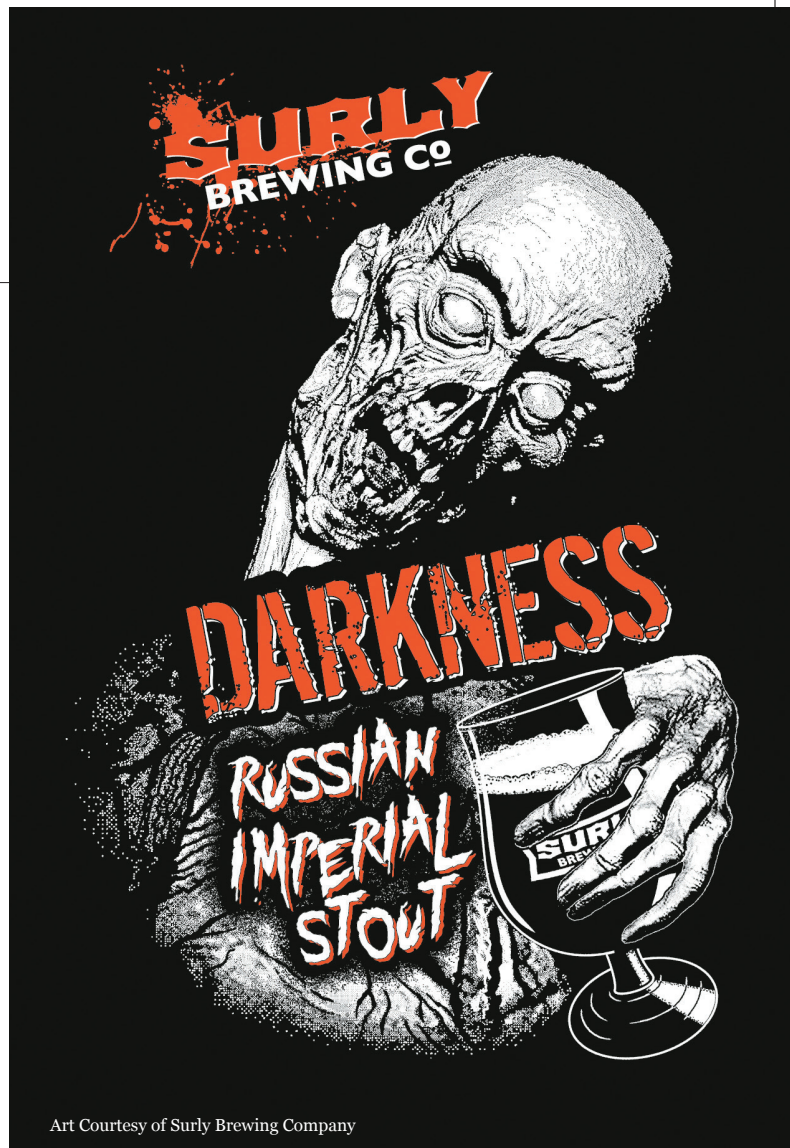
2. Summit Brewing Company
3. Grain Belt

50 **City**

1. MINNEAPOLIS

How does one express in 25 words or less what makes Minneapolis the FAB-est city in all the land? You don't. Everyone already knows that Minneapolis is the FAB-est city. Period.

2. St. Paul
3. St. Louis Park



Art Courtesy of Surly Brewing Company


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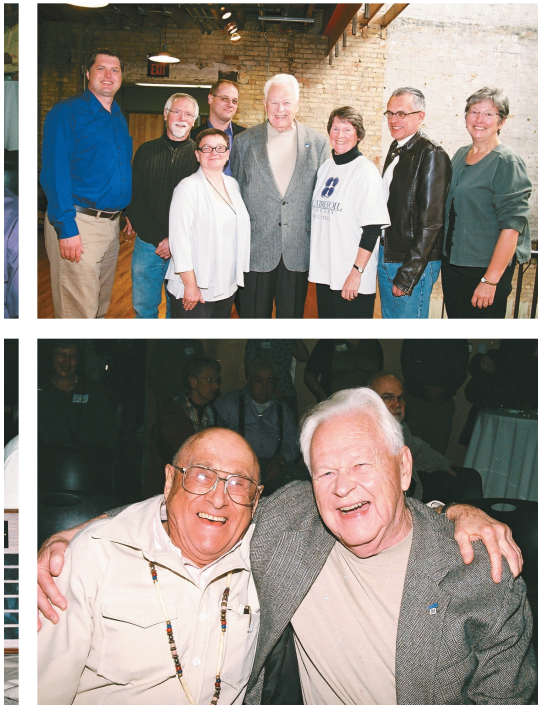
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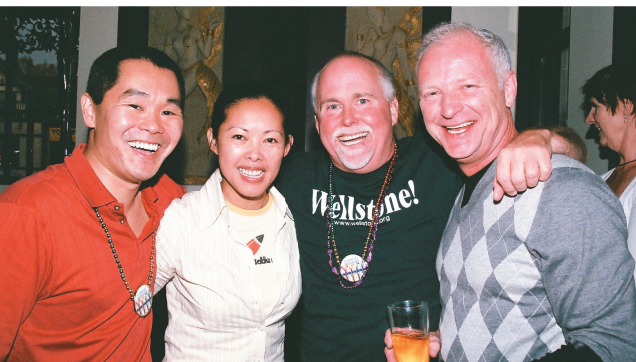
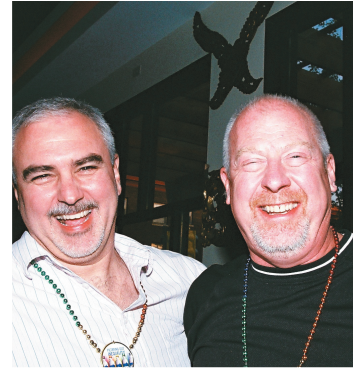
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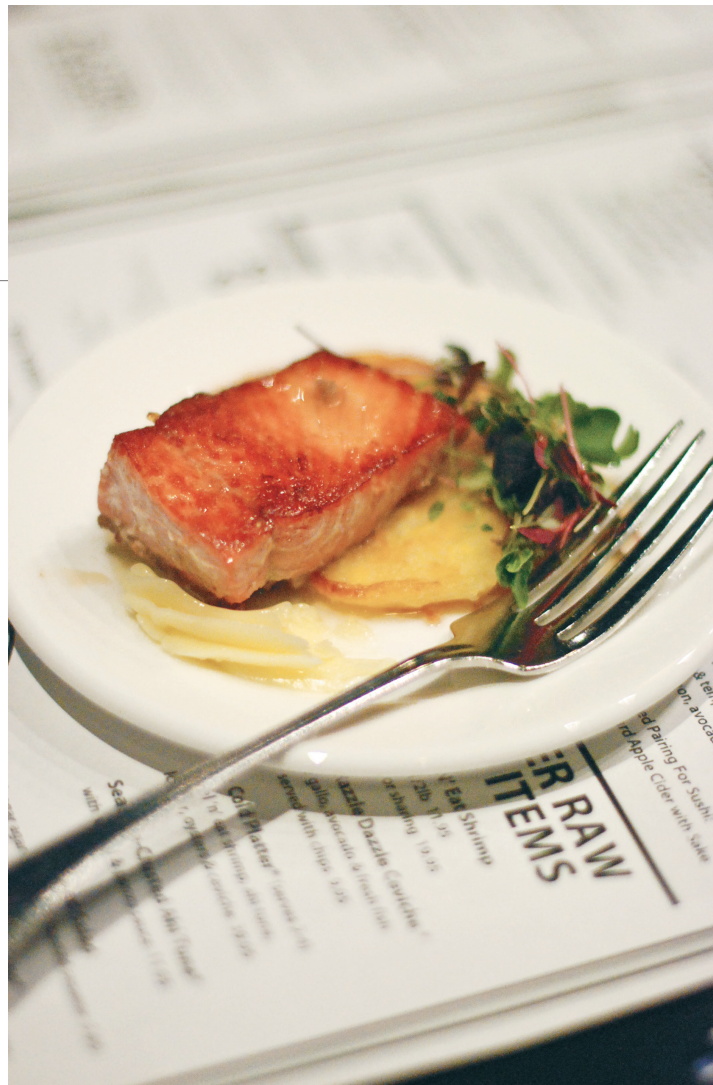
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Delicious fish and seafood fare from the Fish Bites event at the Minnesota Zoo. Photos by Stephanie Meyer.



SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD?

SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD in Minnesota seems like a ridiculous concept. For one: the unavoidable presence of the word “sea” as in, we don’t have one anywhere near us. Second is taking on the “sustainable” tag. The word “sustainable” is raging in popularity as organic or “low fat” once dominated the healthier-than-thou magazine article set. A murky meaning full of good intentions, the label is getting slapped on many a food item, but we’re finding, with research, there is a likely way to eat seafood, even here, with a good conscience.

This summer National Geographic fellow and renowned chef Barton Seaver visited to promote his cookbook *For Cod and Country*, detailing recipes utilizing seafood and produce in a seasonal way that is kind to the environment. Seaver passionately speaks out about over-fishing oceans. Brightly illustrated and crammed with gorgeous pictures of succulent meals, the book fits attractively into a kitchen as it does on a coffee table. Seaver also easily explains the reasons behind eating this way. He offers stunning tidbits from the alarming lack of conservation in our oceans to the shocking uses of fish for industrial uses, but not for food, like anchovies harvested solely for their scales to be put into lipstick. His book is one step toward understanding how to cook delicious, healthy meals utilizing sustainable seafood.

The dilemma that immediately follows is,

what constitutes sustainable? The Monterey Bay Aquarium maintains the most widely respected list of what is and isn’t safe to eat, from mercury levels to harmful fishing practices. The same fish can be considered sustainable or a bad food choice depending on how it’s harvested.

Closer to home, the Minnesota Zoo is going a step further. With their Fish Smart program, the zoo offers a smart phone app that can be downloaded and used when standing in the grocery aisle, wondering what to make for dinner. Just type in the fish and where it’s sourced and the application will guide you to sustainable choices. Additionally, Fish Smart has been working with area chefs to get them to commit to serving only sustainable seafood in their restaurants. Some chefs, like Tim McKee, have spearheaded the movement, introducing Sea

Change and Masu, two of his restaurants that opened with the intention of serving nothing but sustainable seafood. The trend has grown to include critical darling Heidi’s, Oceanaire, Meritage, Fire Lake and more.

The argument for sustainable fish is easy to make. While flying food in does have a carbon footprint to consider, so does too a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon. While not entirely green, there are other arguments for the existence in a balanced diet. It’s really good. It makes me happy and it’s just not available around here. Studies in conflict show that eating a diet that includes more fish is physically beneficial, while others suggest that 90% of the world’s top predatory fish are already gone. Something to consider when ordering that spicy tuna roll.

The difficulty in deciding is that there is no one easy answer when it comes to what is best to eat. Utilizing resources like cook books, reference guides and even an ubiquitous app, we can educate ourselves about choices that are good for our bodies as well as our earth. □

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OFF THE EATEN PATH



(from left) Fig and Blue Cheese Pizza; Calamari; Peanut Butter Cup, Pomegranate Mousse Gelato.

with overstuffed furniture and its signature fireplace. Wi-Fi is still available for those who want to surf the web or study, but the restaurant now offers table service and a dog-friendly, smoke-free outdoor patio for the warmer months.

Transforming the space from that of its former tenant (a Latin restaurant and late-night salsa venue) into the Wilde Roast had to be done quickly and efficiently out of consideration for the restaurant's long-term employees. Much credit for this small miracle is given to the so-called gay mafia, who made over the restaurant in Oscar Wilde's grand style in a mere two weeks.

From the very hour that the restaurant quietly cracked open its doors at 65 Main Street SE, it's been flooded with business, both from the GLBT community and its allies, as well as neighborhood residents. Not everyone gets some of the inside jokes—that the burgers, for example, are named after local drag queens—but after the "new" Wilde Roast regained its footing and got the hang of table-service, it seems to have finally settled into a comfortable rhythm.

Our table started with a bottle of fruity Boxhead Shiraz (\$7/28) before moving di-

rectly to the Fig and Blue Cheese flatbread pizza (\$11.69). Liberally topped with arugula, the marriage between fresh, luscious fig and blue cheese makes the perfect introduction to the Wilde Roast's fare: upscale comfort food with an emphasis on guilty pleasures. Somewhere in heaven, I like to imagine that Wilde, himself, is pleased.

The Crab Cakes (\$14.29) incorporate meaty bits of crab with just enough breading. The two large cakes are not fried, which allows the full flavor of the crab to shine through, and a quick dip in its accompanying lemon dill aioli ties everything together quite nicely. We also couldn't resist sampling the Calamari (\$10.29) which are fried to a crisp and served with the same aioli. However, the breading isn't too thick and they're not overcooked, so a squid fan can still enjoy the supple texture beneath.

A handsome Steak Salad (\$15.99) arrives next—filet mignon served over an arugula and blue cheese base. Filet mignon also appears on the menu in sandwich form, and as a traditional dinner entree, complete with garlic mashed potatoes and a vegetable side. However, If you're in the mood for something more casual, the



Wilde Roast has a variety of sandwiches options for meat-eaters and vegetarians alike. In fact, if you want your burger with either chicken, turkey, a veggie patty or a portobello mushroom instead of beef, the kitchen is happy to accommodate you at no additional charge. We were happy to try the bacon-happy Varla (\$10.99) and the Trinity College Tuna Melt (also \$10.99). This tuna melt employs vinegar as opposed to the more common mayonnaise treatment, and the result is a much brighter flavor profile. Whatever your sandwich pleasure, if you haven't had the Wilde Roast's tater tots, they are absolutely worth the extra \$2. Fragrant with truffle oil and a dash of sea salt, they were easily a table favorite.

When you visit the Wilde Roast for the first time, do try and save some room for dessert: they're known for their homemade gelato. With flavors like basil chocolate, cayenne chocolate, and salted caramel, their gelato is a summer favorite, but they also intend to have some flavors available all through the winter months. A delicate pomegranate mousse, and a decadent, larger-scale take on the Reese's peanut butter cup rounded out the evening.

Eventually, the Wilde Roast hopes to incorporate bar seating and a liquor license, but the already reasonably-priced wine list currently offers diners 1/2 off bottles of wine Sunday and Monday evenings, as well as "Date Night" specials; more information is available online at wilderroastcafe.com. The views of the river promise to make the restaurant a new romantic hot-spot, no matter what the night or the season. However, I believe that come this winter, near the Wilde Roast's roaring fire might be the best spot to take in the beauty and splendor of 2011's very first snow. □



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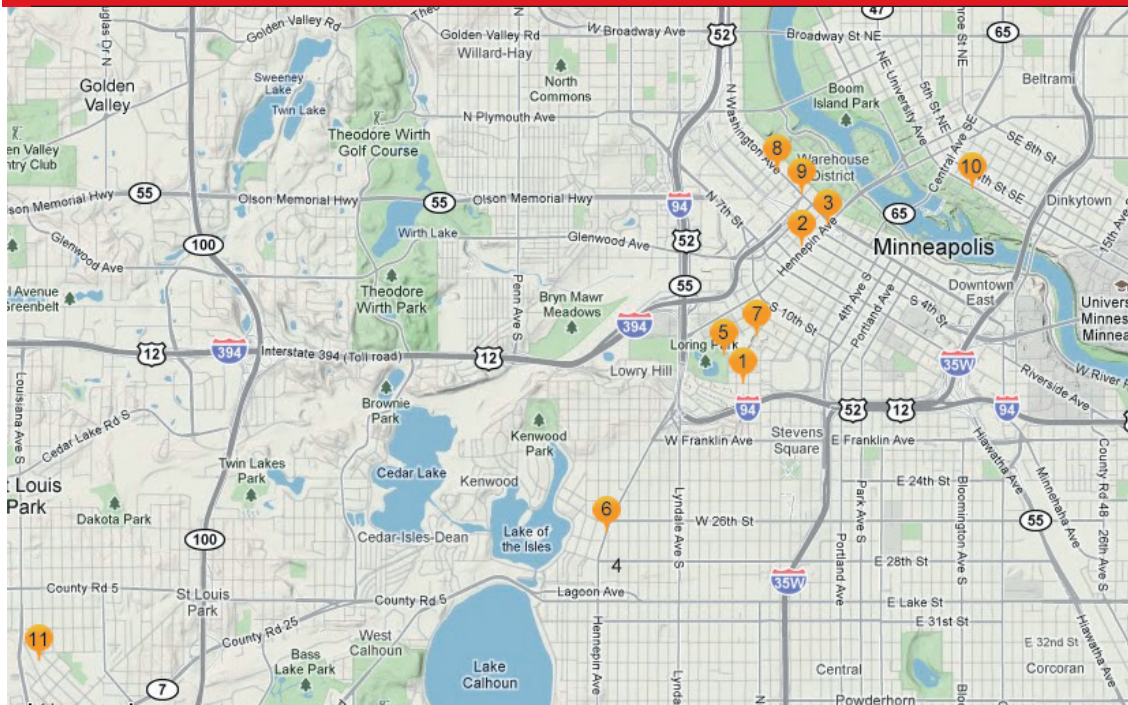
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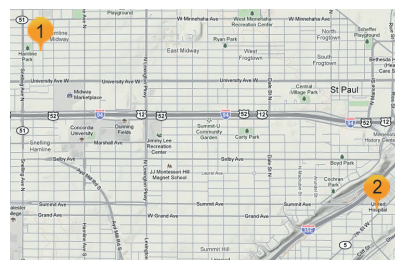
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by George Holdgrafer



Photo by George Holdgrafer

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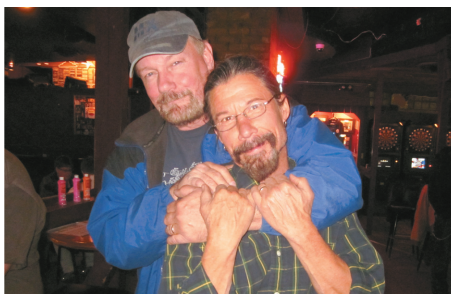


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Tonight is one of those nights we play dress up. When we emerge from our homes glamorous and superficial—when we immerse ourselves in art: wearable, daring, resonate. Like the art on the walls around us, the audience surveys the contemporary: the pieces that stir them, that will remind them why fashion is their calling.

I attend not because I'm a fashionista like those around me—I attend for a friend. My darling Brandon, with whom I share a dangerously witty relationship, is walking tonight. Designers seek him out

because his aesthetic is striking. Which is why he's the one in the spotlight, and I'm in the audience. (I keep him grounded, though, through a series of reciprocated but insincere insults.)

The models pour one by one from behind the stage; the girls in their flowing garments, the guys in their impossibly tailored essentials. Some walk with grace, with a softness about them. Others walk with ferocity. Still others, with a connection to their piece, as if the clothing was made specifically for their personality.

The evening's ingredients consist of two hours of mingling, gossip, and drinking; 30 minutes for the show; and 30 minutes for cheek-kissing, last minute compliments, and departure. Inevitably, the show will be on attendees' tongues for the rest of the evening, perhaps with growing honesty as the night wears on, more and more alcohol in tow.

It's a splendid occasion, complete with glamour and fantasy. Filled with beauty, ambition, art, and conversation. At the show, the subject matter is unlike anywhere else: here—the object, the subject, the verb—is Wonder. ■

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Silent Night. Photo by Steve McHugh

— **Silent Night** — The World War I Christmas Truce of 1914 between German soldiers and soldiers from France and Scotland has become more widely known over the past decade; the decade in which we've been at war in Afghanistan, not to mention years of occupation in Iraq. The Truce was the subject of the powerhouse 2005 film, *Joyeux Noel* and is the source of Theater Latte Da's new annual holiday performance tradition.

However, the 1914 Truce's newest incarnation is operatic. Minnesota Opera and its Artistic Director Dale Johnson have seen to it that Kevin Puts has composed the music and that Mark Campbell has written the libretto. Puts being straight and Campbell being gay sweetens the spirit of this account where two polarities come together to make music. That said, Puts and Campbell are friends and magically co-creative.

Campbell showed his gift for expressing thoughts sung through deeply human characters in his splendid gay-themed *Songs From an Unmade Bed*. Now, having Christian Carion's screenplay as a springboard, the buzz is that he's in top form. Campbell shares, "People still go to the opera for the tunes and for those moments when lots of people are singing or where a lone soprano is on stage and she hits that big note. Kevin has written absolutely brilliant and beautiful music. It's the best collaboration I've ever had. I just love this man's work. I can't wait to work on another opera with him."

Campbell, a self-described "roaring pacifist" also benefits from subject matter he feels strongly about: "My whole premise was that war is no longer possible when you see your enemy as human. When you know that that man has a wife that he loves, or a daughter, you can't put a bullet in his head. War creates this world where you have to dehumanize yourself in order to do it."

Campbell tells movie fans moved by the Dale brothers section that "the role of Jonathan (John Robert Lindsey), the brother who survives, is a bit more increased. We see them as two boys going off to war and going 'This is an adventure! This is for honor! For country!' And, in the next scene, William (Michael Nyby), his brother, gets killed and Jonathan spends most of the rest of the opera trying to figure out how he's going to get payback for his brother's death."

Though *Silent Night* is not a gay piece, it's a searing study of masculinity. Campbell observes, "Men are trained to be aggressive toward each other and to kill each other and to not make love. And this opera makes us wonder what if we dropped doing that? It doesn't necessarily mean we're going to sleep together, or that there's anything in this opera that's homosexual in any way. But it does kind of say: men don't have to act this way." **Nov. 12-20 • Ordway Center, 345 Washington St., St. Paul • (612) 333-6669 • www.mnopera.org**

Our Class — When the Nazis and Soviets invaded 1930s Poland, Jewish and Catholic natives were pitted against each other. When an entire Polish village's Jewish population is wiped out in Tadeusz Slobodzianek's controversial drama, *Jewish Rachelka* (Candace Barrett Birk) is hidden away in an attic by her Catholic boyfriend. Ultimately, in order to survive she must become Catholic, marry, and hence, discard her identity. Birk says *Our Class* portrays "what happens when fear overtakes sense, when it overtakes compassion, and when it overtakes love."

Director Miriam Monasch says the play "is both very specific and, unfortunately, very universal. It resonates for me on both levels. My father's family can be traced for many generations to a small town in central Poland. His stories of growing up in eastern Germany—now Poland again—could be right out of this play. In the time between the two World Wars there was unbelievable political and economic turmoil and the response was to turn on the 'other.' Scapegoating Jews was nothing new in Europe. Today we seem the same response to turbulent times in our country in the right wing's attempts to blame immigrants for our economic problems or the LGBT community for our 'moral decline.' *Our Class* shows the very real danger we face when extremist rhetoric can turn friends and neighbors against each other. And how quickly hate-filled words can become monstrous actions."

Through Nov. 20 • Hillcrest Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy, St. Paul • (651) 647-4325 • www.mnjewish-theatre.org



Our Class. Photo by Sarah Whiting



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Tara Birtwhistle in *Wonderland*. Photo © David Cooper.

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Il Campiello — Ten Thousand Things Theatre has developed an extraordinary and admired reputation for bringing powerful stage productions to prisons. Artistic Director Michelle Hensley's actors do not "act down" to their audience, which some would argue is perhaps the most discriminated against American society. Whether it's Shakespeare, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning *Doubt*, or the current 18th-century Italian classic, *Il Campiello* by Carlo Goldoni, this troupe delivers with intelligence and raw power. Moreover, those who are not incarcerated can also see a public performance.

Hensley shares that in a rehearsal break for a previous production "I was complaining about how few good comic roles there are for women and Steve Epp said, 'Do you know *Il Campiello*? It has six women, mothers and daughters, living on a square.' I said, 'That's great, we'll do it!' The first translation I read didn't seem that funny to me, though, and it even seemed misogynistic. Steve offered to make a new adaptation for us. I'm so glad he did!" **Through Nov. 20 • Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Av., Mpls • & Open Book, 1011 Washington Av., Mpls • (800) 838-3006 • www.tenthousandthings.org**




Il Campiello. Photo by Peter Vitale



The Kitchen. Photo by Mark Brenner

The Kitchen — Arnold Wesker is a master of Britain's so-called "kitchen sink" social drama genre. His 1959 classic, *The Kitchen*, was actually inspired by his own first-hand experience and, out of that, he demonstrates how the workplace can undermine personal identity. The National Theatre of Great Britain's hit revival will be vividly and boldly broadcast by the NTLive series. **Sun. Nov. 6 at 1pm • Guthrie Theater, 818 So. 2nd St., Mpls. • (612) 377-2224 • www.guthrietheater.org**

Matador — Arena Dances and choreographer Matthew Janczewski's muse on how bullfighting, which began as a sacred ritual offering, descends into crude bloodsport. To what degree are both the matador and the bull operating out of overt fear in inverse to suppression of fear? In a day when audiences have become numb to various forms of violent spectacle, Arena penetrates the surface. **Through Nov. 5 • Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts, Hennepin Av., Mpls. • (612) 206-3600 • www.thecowlescenter.org**

Merce Cunningham's *Antic Meet*, *RainForest* & *Pond Way* — Experience these revivals of late choreographer Merce Cunningham's collaborations with visual art titans. *Antic Meet* (1958) features Robert Rauschenberg's set pieces. Andy Warhol's floating Mylar pillows are part of *RainForest* (1968). Roy Lichtenstein made the backdrop for *Pond Way* (1968). Cunningham Dance Company concludes its two-year Farewell Legacy tour in December. His decades-long life partner was composer John Cage. **Through Nov. 6 • Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Av., Mpls. • (612) 375-7600 • www.walkerart.org** 

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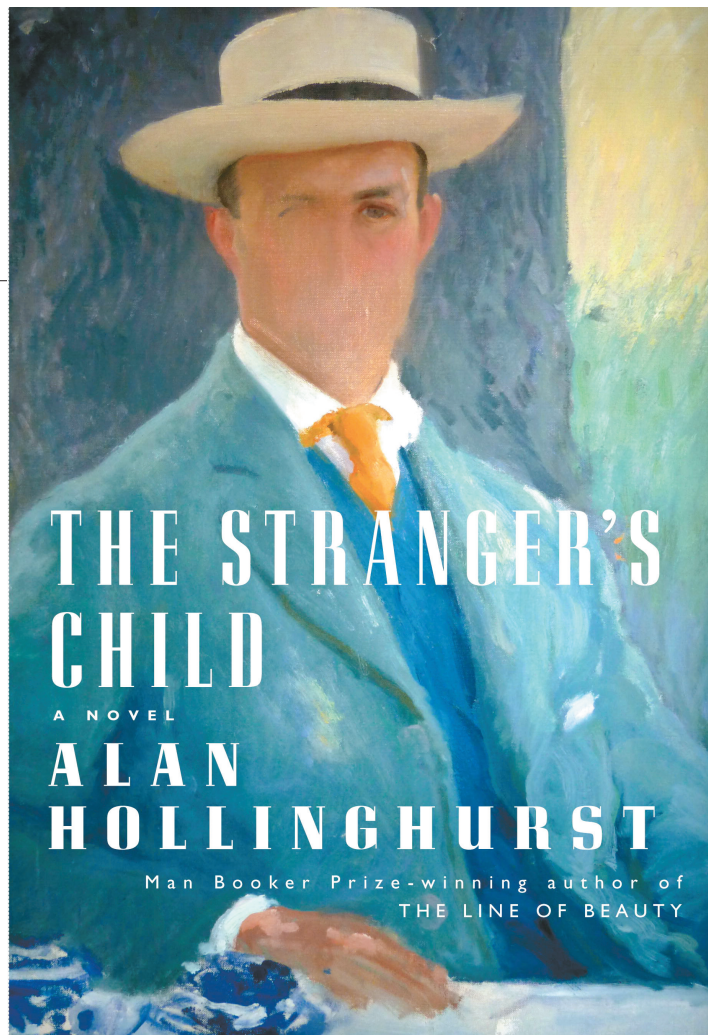
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AUTHOR ALAN HOLLINGHURST

ALAN HOLLINGHURST, author of the recently-published *The Stranger's Child* recently spoke to a packed house at Magers and Quinn Booksellers. Minneapolis is one of only five venues on Hollinghurst's US tour, along with NYC, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and San Francisco. Commented David Enyeart of Magers and Quinn, "The Twin Cities offer a lot of chances to meet fantastic writers, but it's unusual to have a world-class author reading in such an intimate space."

Hollinghurst's four earlier novels, *The Swimming Pool Library* (1988), *The Folding Star* (1994), *The Spell* (1998), *The Line of Beauty* (2004) for which he won the Man Booker Award, deal in the main with a mixture of gay men, sex, love, architecture, and a subset of characters, who are either already dead or offstage, the threads of whose influence lead the narrators and readers back into time. *The Stranger's Child* encompasses all these themes, centering specifically about

the slain poet/soldier Cecil Valence, lost words, and the ravages of time.

Shortly before his arrival, Hollinghurst communicated with *Lavender* via e-mail, speaking to this recent work and to his writing in general.

***The Stranger's Child* in one way reads as a novel of manors and manners, but through its long temporal span—1913–2008—can be read as a study of myth—its construction and deconstruction. Would you comment? Can one untangle truth from myth and vice versa?**

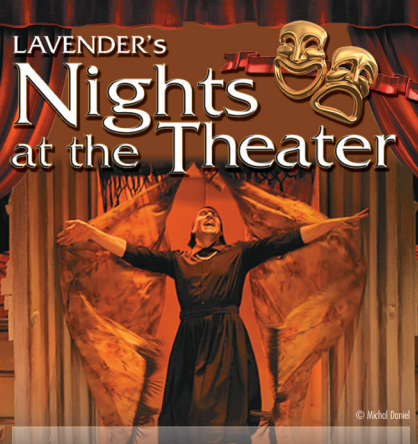
I think my feeling is, increasingly, that it's very hard to be sure of anything that happened in the past. We all mythologise to greater or lesser degrees our own lives and those of others, we make more shapely narratives to explain, enhance or redeem our jumbled pasts. In the case of my book we follow a particular kind of myth-making, that

around a writer who dies young, when he is still all potential. The sense of what might have been, and the honour due to a fallen soldier, make it all the harder for a truthful picture to be painted. Family and friends have vested interests in the dead man. But the historical period is important too, with its codes and taboos different from our own. So the novel, as you say, traces a subsequent process of demythologising, later in the twentieth century – a process not without its own hazards and wishful thinking.

Architecture plays a large part in this book, as it does in your others, and like the characters, over time, undergoes growth and decay, importance and insignificance. One is reminded of the Isaac Watts hymn, "Time...Bears all its sons away." Again, would you comment?

Buildings have always been very central to my way of experiencing life, and to ➔

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me are always central to the business of creating a novel. I'm fascinated by the different emotional and even moral atmospheres of buildings; and in a hierarchical society they are also loaded with significance as to social status and attitudes. Victorian buildings, so widely threatened with destruction in the 1960s, when I was a teenager, have long been especially charged for me. In *The Stranger's Child* I use a large and rather "difficult" Victorian country house as a kind of gauge of changes in taste and social history—splendid when built, reviled in the 1920s, in a way typical of the turn against anything Victorian in the years after the Great War, abandoned and reinvented as a school after the Second World War, rediscovered as a thing of interest and beauty in the late 1960s.

I've read comments concerning the lowered quantity and explicitness of sex in *The Stranger's Child* from your earlier books. Is this a moral (unlikely) or aesthetic choice, or is graphic sex less important, less immediate, over a broad span of time than in the more contained environments of the other novels?

Partly, I felt I'd already written quite enough explicit sexual description, and it's an area in which the dangers of repeating oneself are high. But partly, too, it was to do with the nature of this particular narrative, with its many gaps and guesses. I wanted the reader to be as unsure as many of the characters are about exactly what went on between any two people at any particular time. Our sense of the sex-lives of others is so much a matter of supposition, and for the prurience of contemporary biography these uncertainties are especially provoking. There's increasingly a sense that we're entitled to know about the sexual behaviour of a biographical subject—so by not giving too much away in the first place I hoped to keep the reader in a state of unverifiable conjecture.

Would you comment on the structure of the five sections of *The Stranger's Child*? Like a Greek tragedy, most of the heavy action takes place offstage.

Yes, from the start I knew I wanted to

write a book not about war (which I think would be beyond me) but about its impact. My earliest idea was for a 2-part structure, showing a group of people before the Great War, then rejoining those who survived in the changed world of the mid-1920s. But then, the subject of a literary reputation and the changes it might undergo over a century, made a longer narrative essential. I liked the idea of the gaps, to dramatise the surprises and ironies of time, and of throwing the reader at the start of each section into a new situation, where they would struggle for a moment to get their bearings.

While cruising for and obtaining sex, etc., are of prime importance to many characters, so is the search for love and the assumption of being in love.

Edward Manners, 33 year-old tutor/narrator in *The Folding Star*, falls instantly in love with his 17-year old pupil; *The Spell* follows an older man passionately in love with a younger—what are you telling the reader about Love?

All I know is that from the start, writing centrally about gay experience, I wanted to be as open and unprescriptive in picturing what "love" might be as possible. People have subtly, sometimes widely, different understandings of the word and experiences of the thing. The surrender of a character to emotion beyond his control is of course wonderful material for the novelist. But to write truthfully about love I feel you have to acknowledge its variety, its multiplicity. In *The Spell*, for instance, each of the four characters has a distinctly different understanding of the word, and what it might mean to be in love.

Your wit and humor are frequently remarked upon, and often remind one of a range of writers from P.G. Wodehouse to Saki: "She wasn't a large woman—it was only her presence that was crushing." Who do you feel may have influenced you—or perhaps it's all *sui generis*.

It's very hard for me to say who's influenced me – probably much easier for a reader to spot these debts. But of course I love to

be made to laugh by a book, and in fact feel a special gratitude for things that make me laugh, and remember them often after more serious things have faded. I adored Wodehouse as a boy (even used to read Jeeves stories aloud to the other boys at my equivalent of Corley Court School); I love the quick absurd humour of early Evelyn Waugh. A bit of Saki (but not too much) from time to time is a tonic. And I have a long-term obsession with the glitteringly original novels of Ronald Firbank, in which a deep melancholy is offset by the dottiest comedy imaginable.

A number of characters over the five books have remarkable abilities to spin one fact, glimpse, or desire into a veritable Taj Mahal of reality which, when it crumbles, is devastating. Is this a quality you often find in people?

Well it fascinates me whenever I do—and I see that of course that it's directly analogous to how I write novels, which always begin with a glimpse or two, an image, an atmosphere, and then slowly proliferate into quite large and complex structures.

In like manner, characters know themselves far better than their continued behavior patterns would indicate. Do you see people clinging to their desires beyond all reason? (Paul tracking down Cecil, who remains eternally aloof, encased in marble).

Again, I see it from time to time—the imagination defying obdurate circumstance ... Of course, writing in the first person is full of hazards, as the analysis of motive etc., in that the [narration] has to issue from the narrator himself. So he has both to be blind to his situation and somehow wise to it at the same time.

Do you intend most of the social/sexual engagements in your novels to evoke von Clausewitz and Liddell Hart more than Cupid? Strategy and tactics underlie any hearts and flowers bestowed by the characters...

Well I hope both sides coexist in uneasy equilibrium. The comedy of social interaction will doubtless always have a lot of tactics to it, and ambition of any kind requires strategy as well as desire. □

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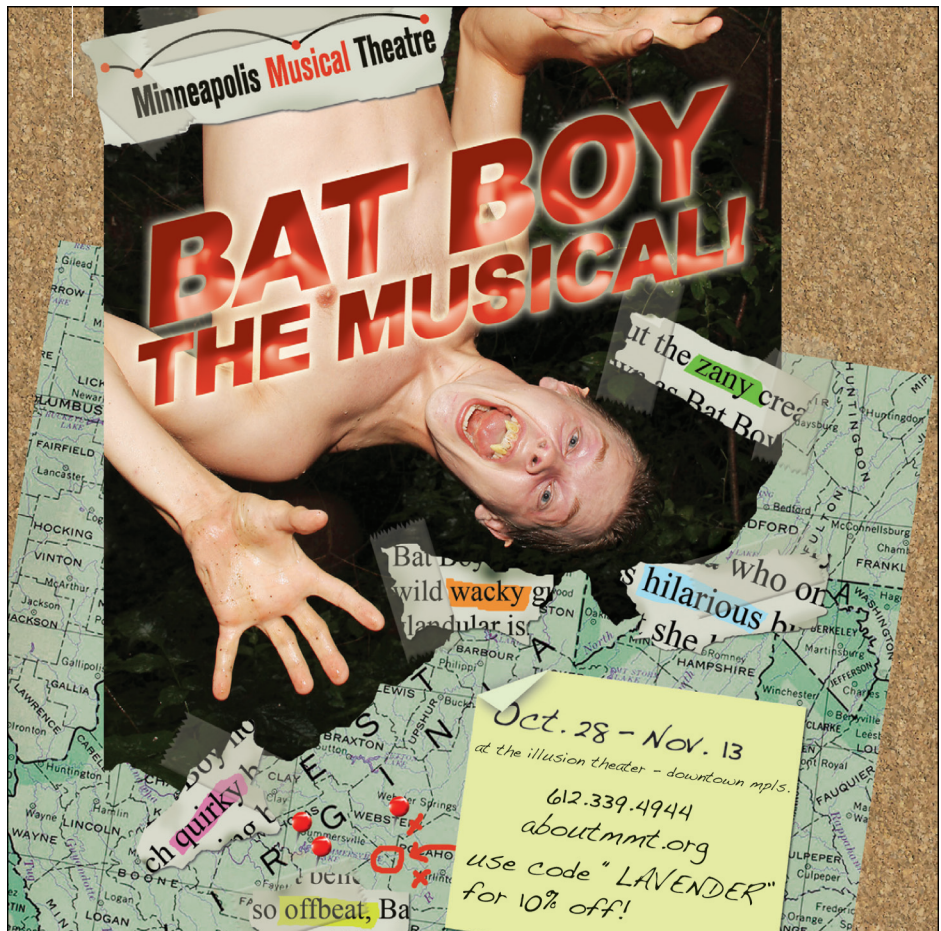
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This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund, and its Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



1. Chef Andrea Reusing of Lantern Restaurant. 2. Crook's Corner, Chef Bill Smith. 3. Portia McKnight of Chapel Hill Creamery. 4. Sugarland in Downtown Chapel Hill. 5. Varsity Theatre Franklin Street in Downtown Chapel Hill. 6. FRANK Art Gallery. 7. Crook's Corner. Photos Courtesy of www.visitchapelhill.org

Chapel Hill – Hogs' Ears to Haute Cuisine

DON'T MIND me, I'm just here for the food. When I dream of dining destinations, a handful stand out for their stellar cuisines—Paris, Hong Kong, Florence. And Chapel Hill.

Who knew? Well, the esteemed James Beard culinary judges. Half a dozen kitchens have been nominated as “Best in the Southeast” in this tiny (pop. 55,000) North Carolina town for their winning interpretations of what's grown locally in this neck of Appalachia, where farm-to-fork is the forte.

Straight off the plane, I'm noshing a sandwich of sweet corn, blue cheese, crimini, oven-dried tomatoes and bacon at Sandwhich, a hangout near the UNC campus. Then I'm whirled to dinner at Lantern, where Beard winner Andrea Reusing dresses local provender in Asian flavors, creating pasture-raised pork and chicken dumplings; Vietnamese-style North Carolina crab and local pork spring rolls; and sake- and tea-cured Cold Mountain trout.

In between bites, I signed on as a foot soldier on the Taste Carolina Gourmet Walking Tour, where I met Matt of Matt's Deli. He defines his style as “Southern food that's lighter,” with a side of house-made pastrami, just because. It tops his “cats' head” biscuits (named, no doubt, for size, not prime ingredient). Taste another of those cloud-light wonders, this one topped with eggs and cheese, just to assure yourself he's not a one-note savant. Oh no, not with a side of watermelon spiked with lime and mint. Or peppy okra pickles.

On to Carrboro Coffee, where Scott (voted best barrista in the Southeast, incidentally) details the roasting process over a cup of Honduras. Then meander to Curryflower,

where Vimala translates tastes of her native India in samosas stuffed with potatoes from her garden plot. A chocolatier, a beer guy, a tea lady, and then off to Acme, where chef/owner Keith Callaghan serves “stuff you wouldn't make at home”—time- and labor-intensive labors of love like pork belly. Keith defines North Carolina food for me: “Food of our English, Scotch, and Irish settlers: pies and quick breads. Slow-cooked vegetables. Gravies. Lots of meat.” A bite of his beef brisket and I'm looking at apartment rentals.

But after I've polished off the shrimp and grits at Crook's Corner, I decide it would make more sense to talk about a long-term mortgage. (You'll spot the place by the pig-as-weathervane and the line outside the door.) That way, I could also show up regularly at Il Palio, in the delightful Siena Hotel, and work my way through its Italian menu, built on local foodstuffs by Chef Adam Rose, who leads off with a salad of watermelon mined with chevre, arugula and mint, abetted by crunchy fried chickpeas. He stuffs ravioli with mozz from Chapel Hill Creamy and North Carolina crab before dashing home to cook smoked chicken and collard greens for his kids.

Sous-chef Isaiah steps in. He's changed from the dungarees of his vegetable farm to his kitchen whites to prepare local trout stuffed with spinach, caramelized onions and fontina.

From high-end to down-home. Noticing a drive-thru up the street, I ask the hotel's desk clerk, “What about that Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen?”

He nails me with his gaze as he prepares his answer. “I! Love! It! I set my alarm clock

for 5:30 every morning so I can be there when it opens.” So, of course, I line up, too, forking over \$3 for a biscuit filled with chicken. Then another stuffed with cheese.

In Hillsborough, 15 minutes distant, we revel in Italian small plates at Panciuto (sautéed pigs' ears atop the salad), sparked by the passion of Chef Aaron Vandermark, another Beard nominee. “What I enjoy,” he says, “is working with good farmers, and connecting my customers to them.”

He salutes these farmers on his menu (as do many), not only by name but mileage—mighty few—from his kitchen. How can a hamlet of 6,600 support this venture, and that of the Arts Co-op, galleries, and bookstore that make up the tiny town? Well, consider the tastebuds of those who live here, like Frances Mayes, Annie Dillard and other bold-name authors. Something in the drinking water?

That's what they say about Carrboro, too, joined to Chapel Hill, called “the Paris of the Piedmont” for its enclave of artists. Its annual free music festival boasts 180 musicians at 25 venues, where folks tap their heels or sway in hula hoops.

Plenty of art in Chapel Hill itself, starting at the campus's splendid Ackland Museum, than gallivanting across the street to Frank, another co-op gallery, and climaxing in scores of outdoor murals that span the red-brick stores. At town's edge stands A Southern Season, called the Harrod's of the South for its gourmet comestibles cum tabletop extravaganzas. Cooking classes, too (most popular: Southern biscuits). And right out in the parking lot stands one of the region's many farmers' markets.

To divine where our dinners came from, I visited a couple of countryside purveyors, starting with Chapel Hill Creamy. Here Portia and Flo, who yearned to make cheese, soon found themselves moms of 30 Jersey cows and purveyors of that wonderful mozz and a dozen other cheeses.

Suzanne, a former D.C. reporter, left the belt line because she'd learned too much about harmful food and wanted to raise her own. She started Cozi Farm with five chickens and now mothers a flock of hundreds, along with goats, sheep and cows. Suzanne started out by selling eggs in nearby Saxapahaw's General Store, a former gas station/convenience stop famed mostly for pop tarts and jerky, now selling capers and arugula—plus a café and bluegrass music hall.

Come visit anytime, or come at prime time—October's TerraVITA food festival, with tastes from scores of restaurants showcasing local, sustainable, organic eats, plus seminars on items of great concern (to me), such as Pairing Southern Beer with Southern Food. www.visitchapelhill.org and www.terravitaevent.com. □

Sen. Jesse Helms lobbied to build a fence around Chapel Hill to save the rest of the state from liberal contamination: Enough said. Chapel Hill is home to the oldest state university in the country, yet also home to other unique "firsts."

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First to support the repeal of the North Carolina Defense of Marriage Act.

First to elect an openly gay council member.

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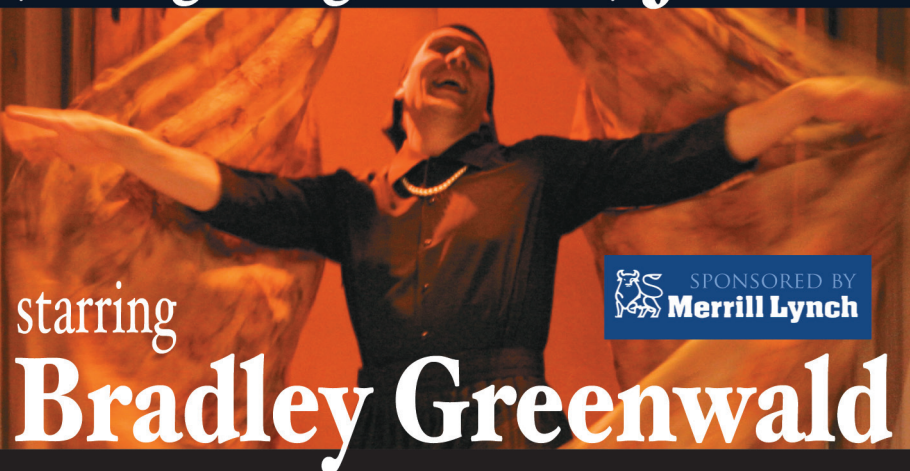
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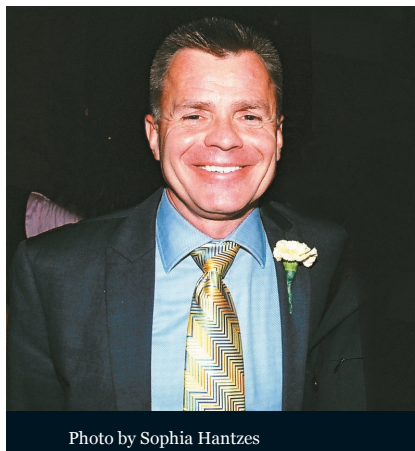


Photo by Sophia Hantzes

KEVIN WINGE TO LEAVE OPEN ARMS AFTER 14 YEARS

Open Arms of Minnesota recently announced the resignation of its executive director, Kevin Winge, whose duties, effective immediately, will be assumed by Jennifer Van Wyk. Winge leaves Open Arms to head Project Open Hand in San Francisco, Calif., a similar agency that provides meals and other services to people with HIV/AIDS, the homebound/critically ill, and seniors. "I am joining another compassionate community that, like the Twin Cities, cares deeply about its most vulnerable citizens," said Winge. During Winge's 14-year tenure, Open Arms grew dramatically – its budget jumped from \$300,000 to nearly \$3 million and its client numbers grew from 100 people with HIV/AIDS to nearly 750 people living with more than 60 potentially life-threatening diseases. In addition, the agency's pilot project to support people with HIV/AIDS in South Africa has grown to include multiple partners in South Africa, Ethiopia and Namibia. □

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Gay Ottawa Teen Who Killed Himself Was Bullied

The CBC reports that Allan Hubley, father of 15 year old Jamie Hubley, who committed suicide in October, spoke to reporters about the bullying that led to his son's death. According to Hubley, Jamie suffered from depression and had been bullied by his peers for being the only openly gay student at his school. Jamie left a suicide note on his blog saying, "I'm tired of life, really. It's so hard, I'm sorry, I can't take it anymore."

Washington State Releases Names on Anti-Gay Rights Petition

The Associated Press reports that Washington state officials released copies of petitions from 2009 that forced a vote on a domestic partnership law. Those opposing domestic partnerships had argued that releasing the signatures could put them at risk of harassment. Gary Randall, a spokesman for the group Protect Marriage Washington, said "I believe there will certainly be harassment, and I pray to God there isn't more than that."

Gay High School Cheerleader Kicked Off Squad After Kissing Another Boy

The Daily Mail reports that a 17 year old openly gay teen boy was kicked off the Alice High School cheerleading squad in southern Texas last week after he was allegedly seen kissing another boy.

The boy told reporters he was being unfairly targeted and that, had he been kissing a girl, he would not have faced disciplinary action. The school district released a statement saying, "The matter is still under review by the district."

House Republican Group Defends Marriage Law in Benefits Lawsuit
Bloomberg reports that three Republican members of the House of Representatives Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group are defending the federal Defense of Marriage Act in a case brought by a lesbian federal employee seeking health insurance benefits for her legally married wife. The congressmen said in an October 14th filing in the case, "There is nothing intrusive in the least about DoMA. It is simply a definitional statute that defines, for federal law purposes, marriage and spouse."

Christian School Vandalized Before Anti-Gay Speaker's Appearance

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that a Christian school was vandalized in October, the same day a controversial anti-gay speaker was scheduled to appear at a fundraiser. Several windows and a door were shattered at Christian Liberty Academy by bricks scrawled with messages demanding that anti-gay activist Scott Lively be prevented from appearing at the event.

California Gay History Repeal Referendum Effort Fails

The Los Angeles Times reports that an effort to repeal California's new state law requiring textbooks to include the contributions of GLBT Americans has failed. Opponents of the law had 90 days to collect 505,000 signatures to put the measure on hold and place it

before voters. A statement from one of the groups supporting the repeal, The California Family Council said, "The abbreviated timeline and lack of funding made this attempt extremely difficult from its beginning."

NJ School Officials Investigate Teacher Over Anti-Gay Facebook Rant

The New Jersey Star Ledger reports School Officials in Union Township, New Jersey are investigating high school teacher Viki Knox following allegations she posted homophobic comments on her Facebook page, criticizing the school's GLBT history month display. Lawyer John Paragano, who said he was contacted by a parent, is calling for the teacher's dismissal. He told reporters, "Hateful public comments from a teacher cannot be tolerated. She has a right to say it. But she does not have a right to keep her job after saying it."

California Transgender Bills Signed Into Law

The Huffington Post reports that California Governor Jerry Brown signed two transgender rights bills Monday. The first bill makes it easier for transgender Californians to update their birth certificates. The other bill adds additional protections for transgender people in the area of employment and housing.

Gay.xxx Sells for \$500,000

The Register reports that the Internet address gay.xxx has sold for \$500,000. That makes it the most expensive domain name sold under the new .xxx extension, which hasn't gone public yet. The domain was purchased by Liberty Media Holdings, which produces adult films under the name Corbin Fisher. Regular .xxx sales begin in December.

Minnesota GOPers Join Marriage Amendment Opposition

The Associated Press reports that a group of Republicans in Minnesota announced their opposition to the proposed statewide constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. The group, including state Rep. John Kriesel of Cottage Grove and former candidate for governor Wheelock Whitney, held a press conference to announce their help to defeat the ban. Minnesota's state GOP Chairman Tony Sutton says the party will support its platform position of opposing gay marriage.

A TELEVANGELISTS'S LEGACY: RANDY ROBERTS POTTS

RANDY ROBERTS POTTS is the grandson of Oral Roberts, a televangelist from Tulsa who was famous for many reasons, not the least of which were his conservative values and faith healing. Randy grew up carrying the Roberts name, married at age 20, had three children, and came out at age 30. His perspective is broad and his experiences are deep. Recently, Andrew's Roundtable brought Randy to Minnesota to speak to various audiences about growing up as Oral Roberts' grandson, the loss of his gay uncle, Ronnie, and what it's like to be out of the closet as an adult. I was able to interview Randy at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis and appreciated most his discussion about how to reconcile family, faith, and sexuality. Here is the first part of the interview, the rest of which can be read online at www.LavenderMagazine.com.

Can you tell us about your background? Where you grew up?

I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and even when my mother was in labor with me, my grandfather was worried about putting his mark, per se, on me because he didn't have a male grandson, yet, with the Roberts name. So, I was supposed to be named after my father and so he came to my mother while she was in labor and kept saying, "I want his middle name to be Roberts." And she said,

"No." She said no and she said no until finally he offered her \$1000 and [laughs] she took it. And she just pulled "Randy" out of the air, so my real name is Randy Roberts Potts since he insisted on it. So, I was born already to someone who really liked his name and wanted his legacy to keep going.

Really, I was born into the decline of Oral's ministry. He was really big in the Fifties and Sixties, and early-Seventies, but from that point on, the donations started



to fall off a bit and he started to be seen as more of a quack.

I grew up on the Oral Roberts Compound in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was like a 3-acre piece of land with a double-stockade fence with electricity and everything—a little guard hut—it was very intense just to drive to our house. There were three houses there and cameras everywhere. It was pretty crazy.

Who else lived there?

There was my grandfather's house with my grandmother, our house, and my uncle's house and that was it. Kind of a weird, campus-like setting. All quiet with little squirrels. Grass...it was really beautiful.

Very pastoral, except for the armed guards, huh?

Yeah, it was really strange. One time when I was a kid, I used to dress up in this little karate outfit and sneak around the compound and try to get away from the cameras. I had a ski mask on just for fun—I was eight or nine—and I came out from behind a tree and there was a security guard with a gun pulled on me. And, of course, I whip off the mask and say, "I'm Randy!" He felt bad but that was just part of what it was like to live on the compound.

Where did you go to school? Were you home-schooled?

I was home-schooled for a year and I also went to public school...and I went for a few years to a Christian school, too. At the Christian school we were told that we were like the Army of the Lord; it was very religious with chapel a couple of times a week.

I went to a public high school. It was a weird transition. I liked it a lot better, it was kind of nice to get away from the uniforms and that kind of stuff. So I liked that.

Did you have any inklings that you'd be coming out later in life?

I knew I was—well, I didn't call it "gay"—but I knew I liked boys from an early age. But, I also was told that it was really bad

and I knew to keep quiet about it, to not tell anybody about it. I felt like it was this bad thing in me that I had to push down. So, that's what I did. And, I didn't call myself "gay" in my head or anything. And then I went to college and I met my best friend. My best friend was this beautiful lady. We were just inseparable. We started dating and I told her early on, "Well, you should know that I have these attractions to men. I think they're wrong, but I have them." She said that was fine, that we could get past that and [intake of breath] so we did.

So we got married and had kids. I was married at age 20 so really, in a lot of ways, we ended up having a regular divorce—we had five years of fighting, we couldn't really get along, we probably would've gotten divorced anyway. It's obviously a big complication that in my twenties I realized that I'm just gay. It's not going away and I can't really function in this marriage. So, that was a lot of years of struggle...of figuring out what to do. For a few years, I was suicidal in the sense that I just wanted to die. I knew I was gay, I knew I was married. I had these great kids and I felt like there were no good options. I didn't want to get divorced, have two homes, and so I just felt stuck.

Who did you rely on in those times? Did you have anyone to turn to for support?

I didn't. Looking back, I know I had friends I could have gone to but I didn't want to tell them "I'm gay." I didn't know what they'd say. I think they would've been fine with it but I didn't know at the time.

I finally saw a therapist. I had a few friends who I talked to but I mostly stayed on my own with it...which was, I think, a mistake. When you're suicidal, you should be talking to people...which I wasn't, for a while.

At this point, would you say you had a steady relationship with God or had you departed from a religious relationship?

It's gone back and forth. When I was 18- and 19-years old I did. But I saw myself as liberal-thinking with a strong relationship with God. Then, by my late twenties, I didn't really at all, any more. When I came out, I started going to a Buddhist temple and I loved that—the meditation, and all that kind of thing. And since then, I've really gotten to a point that I feel like I've gone back to the values that I grew up with...but I don't really define my spirituality as one particular religion. I haven't joined a church. I'm definitely very much at peace with where I am and don't feel like it was horrible that I was raised in a Christian home or anything like that. I've really made peace and have a strong spiritual connection but don't put a label to it.

How does your family react to everything?

Not well. Not well.

I read that at your grandfather's funeral you weren't allowed to sit with the family.

I talked to my mother beforehand and she didn't really want me to be there. I ended up going, of course, and there ended up being a big public ceremony for my grandfather that she spoke at and when she saw me she just kind of lost it. She went on a tangent about how "people will tell you that gay people aren't going to Hell but they really are" and...it wasn't a planned thing. It was a gut reaction to seeing me. All the emotions that came up. It was an interesting thing to sit through and hear. She wasn't saying it out of hate, she's just terrified. I think a lot of people in her position really are scared that they are going to Hell and to think your son is going to Hell is a scary thing. □

(Interview continued online at www.LavenderMagazine.com. Randy speaks about his family's reaction to his coming out, how Oral Roberts may have been surprisingly introspective on the issue of homosexuality, and how Randy had to come to terms with coming out to be at peace with himself.)



Jack Frost is knocking. Let him in!

NOVEMBER SIGNALS the end to our enjoyment of the heat loving gardens of summer. The psychological reality sinks in that fall is upon us and winter is near. For some, this brings about sadness that the garden is put to rest for the year. For others, the advent of another season brings new opportunities to celebrate and advocate the beauty of this time of year, both inside and out.

Outdoor containers and window boxes are likely outlets for gardeners to corral their appreciation of the season's beauty and desire to make things pretty. Replace tired summer plantings, and refresh fall combinations with colorful stems and berries, mosses, conifer boughs, interesting cones and grasses. I will usually insert the materials directly in the potting soil left behind from summer. This keeps them in place and the natural refrigeration we call winter keeps most things fresh for months to come. Be aware that frozen soil is difficult to work with, so try to get your arrangements put together before it gets too cold. If the ground does freeze, don't fret. Simply bring your containers inside overnight to thaw, and once again, stems and boughs can be inserted with ease. Just like summer containers, try to keep in mind the principals and elements of design. Contrasting colors, textures, and forms work together to create a pleasing ensemble proportionate to the container you are using and appropriate for the scale of its surroundings. Nothing looks sillier than a puny arrangement in front of even a modest sized home. There are so many choices to choose from, and remember you do not have to use them all in every combination. Rather, edit your materials to fewer ingredients for maximum impact. Illuminate outdoor displays with white lights, torches, and spotlights to give prolonged enjoyment during our longer nights.

The shorter days (and longer nights) bring us inside more so why not bring the outdoors in by decorating mantles, wreaths, and centerpieces with the seasons finest? There is a plethora of ways to express our creative energy and advocate beauty inside.

Let your arrangements evolve, and edit them as the season unfolds. Fall gourds, interesting squashes, and pumpkins might be edited out of an arrangement after Thanksgiving and replaced with more wintry fair like winterberry, rose hips, or pinecones. I also try to decorate using materials that will bridge various holidays. For instance, I might use an orange-red ribbon rather than a bright red velvet ribbon in a design to allow it to be appreciated from Thanksgiving through the first of the year. At that time, I might eliminate the ribbon altogether in early January for a more wintry look. Similarly, some materials used in winter arrangements can evolve into spring with further editing at that time.

Don't let Mother Nature and Jack Frost get you down. We sometimes take for granted how incredibly lucky we are to have the opportunity to enjoy all four seasons here in Minnesota—something that much of the world cannot do. As a Minnesotan and a gardener, I have learned to appreciate this and challenge you to do the same.

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and the Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.



Photos
Courtesy of
Tangletown
Gardens





AT HOME | John Michael Lerma

NORDIC WARE

Family Affair

I GREW up watching *Leave it to Beaver*, *Father Knows Best*, and first run *Brady Bunch* on television. Entrepreneurship was a regular premise with dad sitting at his work bench in the basement inventing or Beaver ordering concoctions from the back of comic books to make a fortune. This message urged me to start selling boxes of greeting cards door to door when I was in grade school and lead to present day my running a company of my own—Garden County Cooking.

Part of my business is teaching culinary classes in the Twin Cities and one of my favorite facilities is the Nordic Ware Outlet Store and their cooking demonstration area. I have an appreciation for what Nordic Ware puts on the market and use many of their goods during class. When I tell people I teach at Nordic Ware they ask where it's located. I offer the details, they think for a moment and say, "Where the Nordic Ware tower is."

Recently I met with Jennifer Dalquist at the factory headquarters. Jennifer, Brand Manager-Consumer Products, is the granddaughter of Dave and Dotty Dalquist who founded Nordic Ware right here in Minnesota. Jennifer told me that the "famous" tower is a National Historic Landmark. It was the world's first concrete grain elevator built around 1896. It was filled only once and is now an icon for a family business which is firmly rooted in Minnesota and dedicated to the talents of their employees. Nordic Ware has a seasonal workforce of 375 to 500 employees and they acquire their tool makers, packaging, etc., from local companies that are within 15 miles or less to assure quality materials and construction.

When the name Nordic Ware is mentioned the Bundt pan immediately comes to mind and it has an exciting history. It

started back in 1946 when Dave Dalquist, a chemical engineer, took an idea and \$500.00 to begin a business venture in the basement of his home with wife Dotty. Their first bakeware products were a rosette Iron, Ebelskiver Pan, Krumkaka Iron, and Platte Panna Pan. Then, in 1948, Dave and Dotty purchased Northland Aluminum Products and began producing bakeware under the Nordic Ware trademark.

The Bundt pan, created in 1950, began as a request from the Hadassah Society (Minneapolis Chapter) to produce a kuglehof pan much like one the society's president had received from her grandmother in Germany. Dave created one for the Society and a few for Nordic Ware. He used the name, bund pan (Bund means "gathering-thus a bund cake"). When applying for a Trademark it was renamed Bundt pan.

In 1966, Ella Helfrich used a Bundt pan in the 17th Pillsbury Bake-off and won. Following the contest, 200,000 requests came in from people that wanted to own a Bundt pan. "Today there are nearly 60 million Bundt pans in kitchens across America," Nordic Ware President David Dalquist (Dave and Dotty's son) said.

Since 2006, November is not only known for Thanksgiving Day in the United States but November 15th is National Bundt Day. For many, like me, this is considered as the green flag that baking for the holiday season has begun.

At present, Nordic Ware has six product lines with two new lines to be announced in 2012. Their Microwave product line offers a unique item—Microwave Egg Boiler—which cooks soft- or hard-boiled eggs and was featured in the *New York Times*. I've tried it and it cooks eggs beautifully...in a micro-

wave, plus it looks like a giant egg.

I believe that success comes from the relationship anyone or any business has with its community and employees. Toward the end of our meeting, Jennifer held up two beautiful tomatoes and shared with me they had been picked from the community gardens that Nordic Ware offers their employees on the company's property. We're now considering of a fun class utilizing their community gardens but I can't think of a better way to break for lunch than to sit in a garden and plug away.

Trekking in my '94 Ford Escort or with my Toshiba laptop (missing the "Q" key), the food-speak "local, organic, and self-sustainable" are the emperor's new clothes. Nordic Ware, celebrating their 65th anniversary, began in a couple's home basement, purchasing a local business, listening to local customers and neighbors, hiring neighbors, purchasing from local businesses, and extending their quality customer service to consumers and everyone around them that touches the Nordic Ware trademark. That was the meaning I embraced watching Beaver succeed and Bud or Greg make an honest buck. It was local, organic, and self-sustainable like Minnesota, Nordic Ware and apple pie...I mean Bundt cake.

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John Michael Lerma is a local chef, author, "lifestyle guru" and Food Network personality. His company Garden County Cooking offers cookbooks, cooking classes, consulting, private/corporate events, and culinary vacations to Tuscany, Italy. He also teaches food writing at The Loft Literary Center and a regular on Twin Cities Live (KSTP Channel 5). www.GardenCountyCooking.com



Photo by W. Pringle Rodman

**Dear Ms. Behavior:**

My girlfriend Rachel and I have been arguing about a question pertaining to both social politeness and sex, and we're hoping you can help us. We have been together for a few months, and things are pretty hot between us. We recently spent the weekend at my apartment and had sex about five times. (Yes, really.) At the end of the weekend, I remembered that my out-of-town visitors were about to arrive; I had nearly forgotten. In those last frenzied moments of preparation, I realized that I had not washed any sheets. Well, rather than go out and buy a new set of sheets (which I did not need), I decided to sleep on the couch and let them sleep on my bed, on the sheets that we had used over the weekend. Of course I shook them out really well, and aired them over the balcony for a few minutes. I figured my guests would never know the difference. (I smelled the sheets and could not smell anything.)

For some reason, Rachel got really annoyed about this. She said that I was a very bad hostess for allowing my guests to sleep on those sheets. Although she had gone home and had no way of knowing for sure, she felt certain that my guests would be overcome by our sexual scent and be traumatized for life. As it turned out, my guests did leave one day earlier than expected, for reasons that I believe are completely unrelated; however, Rachel is convinced they left because of the sheets.

Ms. Behavior, I am not sure what I could have done differently. I am a graduate stu-

dent and could not afford new sheets, and had no time to do laundry. So winging it by attempting to air them out was the best I could do. Was this really so horrible? Am I the worst hostess in the world?

Also, do you think this will permanently damage my new relationship?

-THE HOSTESS FROM HELL**Dear Hostess from Hell:**

On the continuum of good hostess/bad hostess behavior, you are nowhere near as bad as, say, Jeffrey Dahmer, but not exactly as gracious as Martha Stewart, either. You focused much of your question on the issue of whether or not your guests would know that the sheets had been used. Proper etiquette, however, does not necessarily correspond to whether or not someone can detect that something is amiss. For example, if your restaurant server were to clear another patron's dirty dishes, re-plate the half-eaten germ-covered salad and serve it to you, would your ignorance of this gross time-saving deed make it any less gross? Perhaps the salad situation seems worse because health regulations should apply, but what's similar is the flouted expectation of being served something fresh and clean.

This incident doesn't have to damage your relationship with Rachel; in fact, this argument could be a good model for how you work things out in the future, if you're both able to discuss it openly and not angrily or judgmentally. Just remind yourself that the discussion is not about sex or sheets;

it's actually about listening to each others' perspective with curiosity and interest.

Going back to the specifics, keep in mind that your inability to detect a scent may have been related to the fact that you had inhaled the scent all weekend. For future reference, once you're spent a weekend rolling in someone else's bodily fluids, you may have to irrigate your nostrils before attempting to evaluate any residual odor.

You didn't say if your incoming overnight guests were heterosexuals, gay men, or lesbians, which might make a big difference in their response to the girl-scent sheets: If your guests were gay men, they could be traumatized by this exposure to girl scent, even if it is so unfamiliar as to be unrecognizable. This may manifest as Oedipal nightmares or Vagina Dentata issues, requiring either extra psychotherapy or manly camping sessions in the woods with bears (of whichever type are preferred).

If your guests were straight, you may want to check in with them in a few months; if it turns out that the female member of the couple happens to have come to the startling realization that she is a lesbian, you can take credit for her recruitment! Never underestimate the powerful effects of pheromones on women who are questioning their sexuality.

And if your guests were lesbians, Ms. Behavior would hope that you searched their overnight bags prior to their departure to make sure they had not taken the sheets with them. ■

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO



Hello, sado-masochist! How are you?
GRRRR.



Do you want me to hurt you?
No, I don't.



Would you please hurt me?
No, I wouldn't.



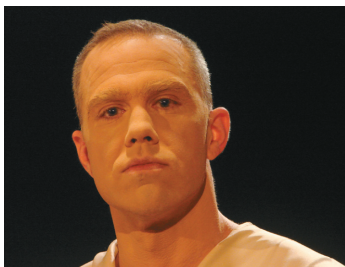
Nobody loves me!
He has the soul of a little valley flower.

Hennepin Theatre Trust's Broadway Confidential with Wanda Wisdom

IN ANTICIPATION and celebration of the arrival of *La Cage Aux Folles* in Minneapolis, the Hennepin Theatre Trust invited Wanda Wisdom and her gal pal makeup artist BeBe Gallini to participate in their Broadway Confidential series with a rare behind-the-scenes look into drag culture and history. As BeBe painted Wanda's face, the two chatted with the audience about the art of drag and its place in society.



Wanda (sans eyebrows and still in her boy clothes) chats with the crowd as BeBe prepares her makeup table.



A look at Wanda in her dressing gown, with eyebrows gone and nothing more than foundation and powder on.



The audience got to see close up with the help of a camera. Slowly, but surely, Wanda's face takes shape.



BeBe shares her tips for expertly affixing false eyelashes.



BeBe readies the wig as Wanda, almost herself again, applies her wig cap.



Wanda's signature coiffure comes in for a landing.



With a few adjustments from BeBe, our favorite podcasting drag queen is resurrected on stage for all the world to see!



Their work complete, BeBe and Wanda are ready to paint the town fabulous! Photos by Andy Lien

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OUR VOICES

DATELAND

Jennifer Parelo

BEHAVE YOURSELF!

IT'S LATE at night and I just finished cleaning up after yet another dinner party where my guests behaved badly. I spent weeks preparing for this party and my sorry-ass friends rewarded my efforts by complaining about the food, engaging in drunken arguments over inane issues, and refusing to go home. Finally, I turned off all the lights, blew out the candles, and retreated to my bedroom, leaving my sodden guests moping in the dark.

It is time, my sistahs, to learn some basic etiquette on being a good dinner guest. I am directing this exclusively at lesbians, because gay men don't need any help. They are, in general, excellent guests. The worst behavior I ever witnessed at a gay man's dinner party was when the host pulled a tenderloin from the oven and all the boys giggled over its resemblance to an uncircumcised penis. It might have ended there, but the only lesbian in the room (yours truly) said that she had never seen an uncircumcised penis and, thus, had nothing to compare the roast to. The host gleefully produced a stack of porn that focused specifically on this special brand of penis. As you can imagine, the evening took on a whole new direction from that moment on.

Here are some tips to help you make it through a dinner party and secure a place at your hostess's table again in the future:

Wear something nice. The main reason most of us became lesbians was for the comfortable footwear, so no one expects you to wear heels or a dress. But would it kill you to wear freshly laundered jeans without holes in the knees? And don't wear pajamas. (At my last party, two guests showed up in pa- ➔

Continued on page 64

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My Achilles' Heel

I WALKED UP to the bar and caught the eye of the bartender, a fifty something man sporting a graying beard and receding hairline.

"A Chardonnay, please," I said, smiling. I was wearing an age-appropriate button top and black skirt, along with smaller hoop earrings and a couple silver bracelets. I wasn't gorgeous—by any stretch—but certainly the look was totally feminine.

A minute later, the bartender returned with a full glass in hand.

"Eight dollars, sir," he said.

Instinctively, I reached into my wallet and started fishing for a \$10. As I grabbed the ten spot, my brain caught up with my ears. Still, I pulled the bill out and handed it to him. As he turned around, I asked myself, did I hear him right? I was going to make sure.

I took a quick breath, and as the bartender was working the cash register, I inquired, "Excuse me, Mr. Bartender, but did you say sir to me?"

The bartender turned around with my change. "Yes, I did," he said unapologetically. He then handed me two \$1 bills. A dozen alarms went off in my head as I felt anger, hurt, and a flight response all at once. Still, I had to say something to this asshole.

"Do you see me?" I blurted. "Do I look like a sir?"

The bartender crossed his arms and grinned. "What did I say wrong?" he asked idiotically.

I sensed a looming lost battle, and scooped up the change and wine and stormed back to my table and friends. I tried not to let the incident get to me, but it did.

I'll admit it: I have a deep voice. When I was still a man and practiced law, I used my voice as a blunt object, injecting fear into trial witnesses, which often made them admit things they didn't want to admit. My closing arguments were a storm of voice inflections to convince jurors that I had the better case.

Now my voice has become a weapon used against me, my own personal Achilles' heel, something that occasionally takes me

down. There's some real irony there, when I think about it, but I try not to.

It's not like I haven't attempted to deal with it. I took speech therapy every week for a year, which helped get my pitch from the subbasement to something a bit higher. It still wasn't good enough. At least once every couple months, someone calls me "Sir," or refers to me with male pronouns. Once, after overhearing me in a restroom, a woman even yelled from a stall, "Who's the dude in here?"

And forget about the phone. My standard line is, "Yes, it's a deep voice but I'm a woman." Sometimes, the caller still reverts to "Sir."

I've become excellent at the art of smiling and pointing. Too bad I can't smile and point my way through life.

Many of my friends think I'm taking things way too seriously. "Ellen, I love your voice," one of my friends has said more than once. My girlfriend doesn't seem to mind it either. To her credit, she's never shirked being with me in public.

I've never seen her wince even once.

But then again, maybe she needs her hearing checked.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. I did the hard work of being transgender—multiple surgeries, learning how to dress and use makeup, and that damn speech therapy. I moved away from my home of 20 years to a brand new city. I figured that would be enough to give me a fresh start as a woman. Of course, all of that was important, but if you're transgender, the whole goal is passing. Most of the time, I pull it off, but it's those odd moments where things don't work which get to me.

I'm human, after all.

I did get some justice with my bartender friend, though. When a server came by for the next round, I asked if he shared tips with the bartender. When he said, "No," I gave him the two bucks. "This would have been the bartender's tip if he hadn't been so mean," I told him.

Insensitivity has a price, I thought. For a brief moment, I felt better. ■

jamaz. I'm not kidding.)

Bring a hostess gift. Bring your hostess a thoughtful gift. It could be something as simple as a homemade CD with songs she might enjoy or a decent bottle of wine. Do not bring "wine in a box." There is only one type of liquid that is meant to be carried in a plastic bladder, and it ain't Chardonnay.

Eat what you're served. According to my mother, who has a lot of faults (believe me!) but is the best hostess this side of Elsa Maxwell, guests have no excuse for refusing to eat what they're served unless they have a serious medical condition that limits their diet. "Eat what's put in front of you and shut up about it," she says. Of course, my mother never had to deal with vegetarians, which brings us to our next point.

There's no room for PETA at the supper table. All lesbian carnivores realize we are wicked. Yes, we eat dead animals, but we're sick with guilt about it. We don't need to be reminded about how terrible we are by vegetarians who regale us with slaughterhouse horror stories as we carve into a steak. We feel bad enough already. So, vegetarian girls, if you've got a problem with us, form a picket line outside the party. But don't attend the dinner simply to destroy our self-delusions that beef is not the same thing as cow.

Speak up! You must contribute to dinner conversation by offering at least one interesting anecdote. It is the price you pay for free booze and food. If you are in a bad mood and determined to sulk through dinner, stay home. We'll have a much better time without you. ■

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Letter from Indianapolis

I HAVE no idea what the hell an 8-count is.

I mean, I know it's a dance thing, but I don't understand how the counts match with the movement. And what's the difference between an 8-count and a 16-count and a whatever count? Does that mean I can make up whatever count I want?

I was schooled in the nuances of the 8-count hour after butt-numbing hour on high school gymnasium bleachers recently—in a town I bet you've never heard of: Brazil, Indiana. My best friend, Jeffrey, is a color guard instructor there.

When I wasn't watching Jeffrey drill the girls of Brazil's high school color guard (for the record, he's kind of amazing at what he does), we were in Indianapolis (about an hour away from Brazil) doing what we do best: going out.

On night one of my four-day adventure, as I introduced myself to several people at a house party, one guy asks me in an obvious ready-to-attack tone, "Where are you from?"

"Minneapolis," I say brightly. "Oh, I'm sorry," he responds. I loathe condescending people.

I could be an ass back to him, but I'm not. I'm not that kinda guy. I just so happen to love Minneapolis, though, and I'm not about to let him mangle Minneapolis in front of the other, socially competent party guests.

"Have you ever been before?" I ask and

sip on my Red Bull-vodka. "No."

"Well, I'm sure the guacamole you brought is delicious," I say and end the conversation. I keep my assumptions about the unknown optimistic. The Ignorant's thought process operates like this: (P1) This person is talking about something I've heard at least one negative thing about; (P2) I am not personally familiar with what this person is talking about; (P3) When I hear things that I'm unfamiliar with, I default to other people's opinions, rather than learn more and craft my own; (C1) Therefore, I am blissfully ignorant douchebag.

OK OK, I made up the last part on my own. Sorry, the hypocrisy irks me.

It's not necessarily the content that pissed me off. It was the principle: here is a gay man, asking not to be judged on his sexuality alone, ready to spit on anything he's heard even one negative thing about, in an attempt to belittle another human being—to put me in my place, to make me certain I lived in an inferior town, for whatever inferior reason.

I suppose I should've engaged him more. Asked him what his peeve with Minneapolis was. Tried to sway his opinion. But his tone was clear: it wasn't Minneapolis that irked him, it was me. The new kid who people were interested in talking to.

We all make judgments; I'm not saying that because we're part of the GLBT community we can never make a baseless opin-

ion—even a verbal one. I, for instance, hate salmon. Have I ever tried salmon? No. I just don't like it. I don't know why.

I'm not even against hypocrisy. Is it OK for you to cut me off on the highway? Hell no. But if I need to cut YOU off, well, it's OK because I really, really need to.

What I'm suggesting—and this is for all of us: gay, straight, and everything in between—is that we stay away from unfounded judgments when they affect other people. These opinions matter. They hurt when we vocalize them. Opinions like these, from our powerful, albeit ignorant peers, keep us from marriage.

On a side note, other than my brief run-in with Hypo With a Side of Guac, my trip to Indianapolis (and Brazil) was great—met some wonderful people, learned about 8-counts, and partied in a surprisingly robust gay community. Take my opinion for what you will: it's a great city. I'll be back.

Other notes regarding Indianapolis:

1. Visit. It's an incredible town.
2. Every gay man who lives there is named "Jeremy." I met at least 5 of them.
3. Stay away from older women named "Jan." I'm pretty sure I had a stalker. Just don't risk it.
4. Eat at English Ivy's. And get the chicken strips. Perfect hangover remedy.
5. But seriously. Visit. It's an incredible town.



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